

自動販売機に 生まれ変わった俺は

迷宮を 彷徨う

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角川スニーカー文庫

I REINCARNATED INTO A VENDING MACHINE

– Jidō hanbai ki ni umarekawatta ore wa meikyū ni hōkō –

- Volume 1 -

AUTHOR:

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[Translated by: NovelsJapan | Hon'yaku]

– SYNOPSIS –

He, who was an authentic Vending Machine maniac,
died from a traffic accident while protecting a vending machine.

He, who had expected that his life was finished, woke up in a lake shore
surrounded by abundant nature.

He didn't understand what had happened to himself.
He only knew that he had become a vending machine.

Alone in the labyrinth of another world...
As he wanders alone, he meets a lone girl who causes the story to change.

轉生成
自動販賣機的
今天也在
迷宮
徘徊

如果中獎
就能
再來一瓶！

01

Author

昼熊

Illustration

加藤いつわ



**GUILD
MASTER**

ハンター協会会長。
思慮深く住民想い。

HAKKON

元自動販売機マニア。
移動はラッミスに背負って
もらう。生前に自動販売機
で購入したことのある商
品ならなんでも出せる。

HYURUMI

優秀な魔道具技師。
姐御肌でラッミスの
幼馴染。

SHIRLEY

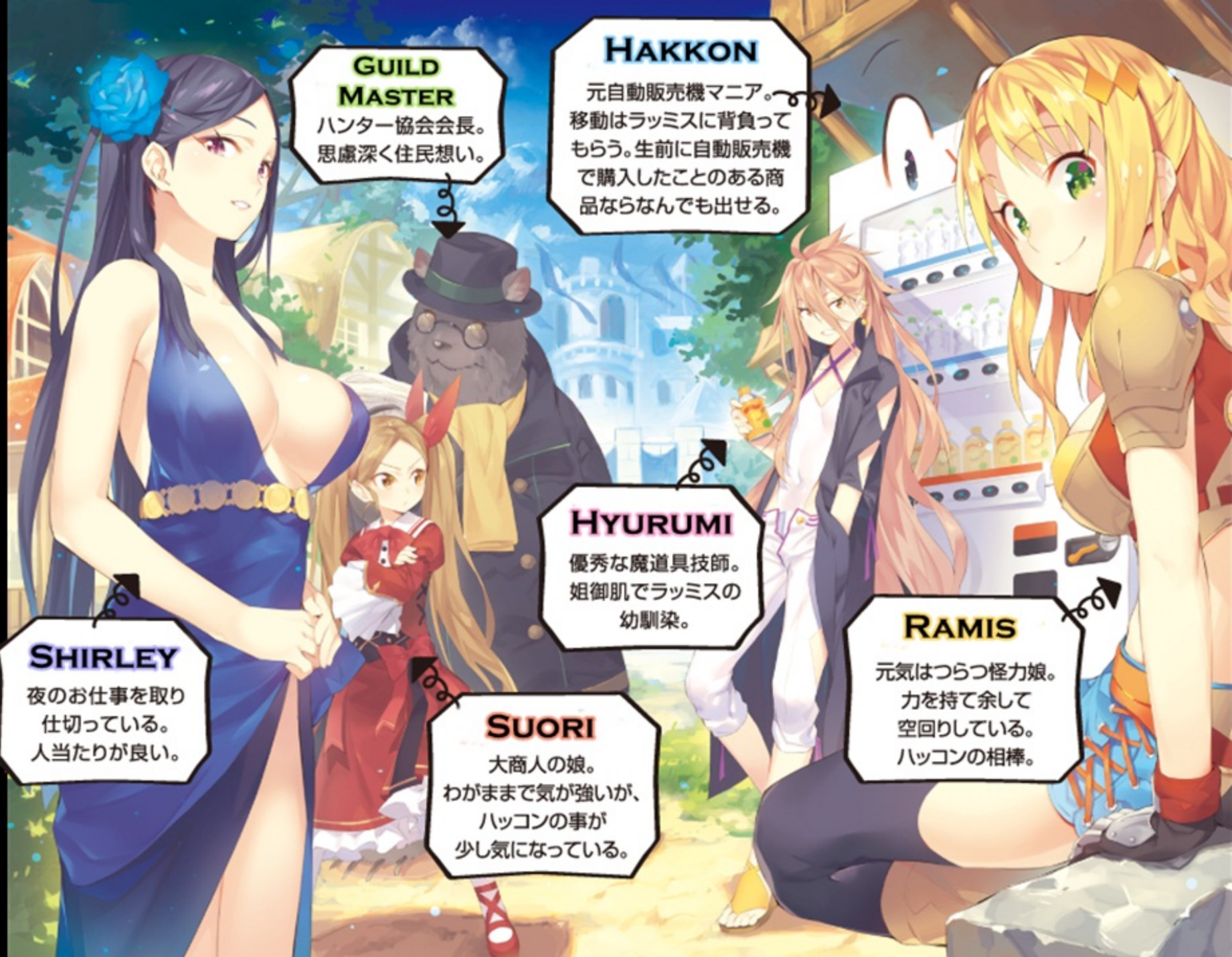
夜のお仕事を取り
仕切っている。
人当たりが良い。

SUORI

大商人の娘。
わがままで気が強いが、
ハッコンの事が
少し気になっている。

RAMIS

元気はつらつ怪力娘。
力を持て余して
空回りしている。
ハッコンの相棒。







現在，
起動「結界」！

荷伊

阿福

拉蜜絲

蛙人魔



CHAPTER 1

MANIAC ON ITS WAY!

Do you have any idea how much I love vending machines?

I'm willing to pay for a new item in a vending machine even when I'm broke and can't pay my electricity bill.

Does that mean I only love the goods rather than the machine?

No, no, no, I love both of them. I particularly love the imposing design of the vending machine, how it contains a variety of unique products. To me, it's nothing short of a treasure chest.

I even love the disgusting, overly carbonated soft drinks. Truly a drink which doesn't suit its temperature. If I don't buy it, someone else will. So, why not?

There are not only drinks but various snacks and breads that get warmed automatically inside the machine.

Of course, it's not only food, there's stationary, clothes, socks, even adult items. All found in a vending machine. If you're not charmed then don't blame me for calling you crazy.

Vending machines are truly amazing in this day and age, with their unique varieties. I even went on a hunt for a machine which I became interested in through the internet. Man, it was a great trip. All the pictures are in my secret folder.

I, who is in love with the glorious Vending Machine, was struck down by the very same thing. Man, such irony.

A truck transporting a vending machine got in an accident and before I knew it the machine came flying at me.

Now that I think about it, I could've survived if only I tried, but I was stunned by the

majestic look of the new vending machine. I even felt obliged to help the Vending machine, so I tried to save it.

What would happen to a person trying to catch something that weighs over 400kg without goods inside, and 800kg when it is full?

Unsurprisingly...you get smashed into pieces.

This is how a Vending Machine Maniac died because of his instinct.

I thought my story was supposed to end there. But in reality, it had just begun. I, who was hugging cold steel while drifting into an eternal sleep, suddenly woke up.

I felt relieved that I wasn't actually dead but I was also worried about the vending machine that fell.

When I came to, I was standing close to an unknown lake. I couldn't move or speak, and it felt like my senses were cut off from the world.

I wanted to shout something out at random, but what came out of my mouth was

— “Welcome.”

I never intended for that word to come out of my mouth. I quietly reaffirmed my sanity, and came to the conclusion it must have been someone else's voice.

I calmed myself and tried again

– “Thank you.”

It was supposed to be my voice but it sounded too lucid and clear. It was really weird. I never meant to speak this clearly. However, when I tried talking, it just came naturally.

With full concentration, this time for sure!

– “Please come again.”

–“Unlucky.”

–“You won!”

This wording feels familiar. I’ve heard it many times in my life so I shouldn’t be wrong. This is the sound of my favorite vending machine brand.

No way, it can’t be something this absurd. I know I loved vending machines for which I will die for, it’s impossible for me to be reborn as a vending machine right?

I can even see the world outside.

Sky with small strands of cloud floating, a huge lake right in front of me. This place seems to be in lakeside. I saw my reflection in the water below me.

A white and tall rectangular body, elegant machinery attached, a perfectly styled machine. Behind the lustrous glass, was a bottle of mineral water and a small can of corn soup next to each other, truly a work of art done by a master of beauty. A gentle double layer which seemed to be able to withstand the storms and disasters, a can costing only 100 yen, a bottle of water for 130 yen, such humble prices with so much ... shit, this is a vending machine isn’t it?!

wwwwwwwwwhhhhhh, there’s no way right, it’s gotta be a lie! Reincarnating into a vending machine after death, its the worst...not. Being able to reincarnate as my favorite thing, can be nothing other than a god given gift!

Wait but hmmm...just because you like cars doesn’t necessarily mean that you want to be a car. Well, in kindergarten there was this one brat who cried while saying he wanted to be a police car.

Either way, nothing can be done about it now I guess. The sad part about being a maniac is that I’m almost glad about becoming a machine.

Crying won’t help. It doesn’t feel quite right but I gotta stop running from reality. I shouted again to try and get rid of my anxiety.

–“You Win.”

Shut up, me.

Anything I try to say will come out as one of the pre-recorded lines of the machine. By trying many times, I've more or less figured out what I can say.

- "Welcome."
- "Thank you very much."
- "Please come again."
- "If you win, you get another one for free."
- "Unlucky."
- "You Win."
- "Please pay the balance by inserting coins."

Only these ones, huh. Well, better than nothing. It's definitely impossible to have a proper conversation with anyone though. Even if someone were to come by, they would get scared hearing a vending machine talk in such an unorthodox and repetitive way.

Even though I'm giving up on communication there has to be something else I can do. Hmm, something a vending machine can do... Of course! Selling goods! I don't see any customers around though. Without customers, will it really be ok? I don't think anyone is dumb enough to put a vending machine in an isolated place, so someone should come around sooner or later.

This place looks like it could be a tourist spot. Maybe there is a mansion or something on the lakeside. Even if there are no customers, maintenance guys should come around to check on the stock and condition of the machine.

I might as well start searching for a way to communicate, for the future. It would be nice if I could move my body, but I've tried a couple times and had no luck. I can play the pre-recorded sounds with just my will though. Well, it would be scary if arms and legs grew out of my body.

Isn't there something I can do... I've been replaying the pre-recorded sounds over and over again. Meaning that I do have some control over the functions in my body.

Inserting money to buy a product is the main function of the vending machine. That's it, huh. Maybe there is a way I can get the goods out without paying... I might as well try it since I have nothing better to do.

First, let's figure out my own body's functions. I can accept that I'm a vending machine and not a human. Parts, electrodes, and goods are my muscles, skeleton, and organs. My voice is pre-recorded audio. No arms or legs, unfortunately. I'm calm right now, is this a sign that I have accepted the reality of my situation? Think cool, act hotly. Just like the separation between hot and cold drinks. That was the kind of nonsense going through my head for the last couple hours.

I am a vending machine. Humans can move their body through their own free will. As a vending machine, I should be more than capable of understanding my own functions. Believe! Become!

I am a vending machine!!!

[Vending Machine]

Mineral Water (Cold) 130¥ (100)

Corn Soup (Hot) 100¥ (100)

PT 1000

<Functions> [Refrigeration] [Heat Insulation]

Eh, my brain is stunned... I don't have a brain though. Well, this is the first thing that came to my mind. Hmmm, aren't these the goods inside my body? The line up is kinda lonely... Well, it's better than some weird drinks. Mineral water is the staple of the vending machine, after all. Mmm... corn soup in the winter is also amazing. I wonder what the brand of the the mineral water is... Somehow more useless thoughts keep appearing.

Hmm, when talking about mineral water brands, there are the popular ones and the minor ones. Well, I've drinken all of them before. The mineral water I have right now is a famous standard brand, but I wonder if I can change it.

((Spent 10 points to change the brand))

It worked somehow! I imagined moving a mouse over “PT” and dragging it out. Then, I imagined left clicking, and various words appeared. What if I right click...?

((Points are something that can be converted from money. By spending points, utilizing new functions, restocking of goods, and changing goods, are all possible.))

Oh, the description pops up, huh. This is useful. I should explore this more.

CHAPTER 2

BODY OF VENDING MACHINE

I was able to understand these things after my hard work in researching this body. PT stands for points, obviously. By spending these I can restock and change the goods. It can also change the functions of the vending machine itself.

What I mean by 'function' is things like the ability to warm up or cool the goods, warm frozen goods, or boil water for Cup Ramen. There are many possible functions from what I saw, but I only briefly scanned the list.

I decided to research more about adding functions, but first, I researched the goods changer. There were seriously way too many goods. I looked through all of them, but they all required points to be bought.

As an experiment, I bought milk tea by spending 10 PT. I received Milk-Tea (Cold) (100). I swapped it with one of the corners that the mineral water was occupying. I could even control the price, so I decided to set it to 100 yen. *[ED: A yen is worth slightly less than 1 cent]*

It seems I can exchange 1 PT for 100 yen. Hoh, isn't this a system that lets me restock myself with the money I earn. How to say it, it's like way too high tech.

After investigating my body and reading the description I found that I'm functioning without electricity. Instead, I consume points to serve as power/energy. 1 PT is consumed per hour, in other words, 24 PT per day. That means I need to make an average of 2400 yen every day to survive.

I still have over 900 PT left, so I can function for the month. Even so, I should try not to waste points carelessly. I need to have a stable income before I can adventure. (adventure in spending points, that is)

There is a reason for my thorough analysis. I'm freaking boooored~. It's been 2 days since my reincarnation into a vending machine but so far, no one has come. When I

look carefully, it seems like no one will come to this lakeside with no road.

Maybe.. No one will ever come and I'll die?

Nn,nn... — Haha, let's research more about adding functions! There has to be a function that let's me grow tires and move. No matter how you look at it, this place is bad for business. I need to move to a place with more people.

Eeeeeto, function, function. *[ED: MC scrolling through the list of functions while muttering function to himself]* Microwave? If there is hot water then I can provide hot meals. What else is there... Ooh. a function that pours water into paper cups. And then... nn? There is something weird behind this screen. What is that?

“Gugeggo Gugeggo” (?)

Oh, it's the voice of a living thing. I always wondered whether or not I was alone so I might as well concentrate on the sound. Just knowing there is a living being makes me feel kind of happy.

I've never heard a cry like that before but is sort of sounded like a frog. If I'm not mistaken, it came from the forest nearby. I don't really have eyes so I focused on where the sound came from while pretending I was moving my eyes.

Something came out from behind a tree—— what? Eh, did frogs always have black skin or wear something that looks like leather armor? He's holding a pitiful, shabby looking wooden bat. More importantly, he's walking on two legs.

There's no way it's some new kind of frog. That head of his, it's the same size as a humans! His arms and legs are covered in warts too. Even though he's a frog he has dog like eyes with a really sharp gaze.

He definitely looks like a monster. A two-legged wart frog. His height is only at around 150 *[ED: 4'11"]* but he looks really fierce.

It's all way too real. This really isn't Japan, huh. Normally I would be really surprised but the moment I became a vending machine common sense was already out the door. But, if this is another world then what about the currency?? There's no way it's yen

right. Doesn't that mean if I can't get Japanese yen? Something doesn't seem right here.

“Gerugugeggo?” (Frog)

Ah, Humanoid Frog-san looked my way. Hey you, don't get too close. Wait, he's wearing leather armour so he must have some level of intelligence. Judging people just by how they look is the worst thing a human can do. Perhaps, is this my first customer?

–“Welcome.”

He might not understand what I'm saying, but just in case I greeted him.

“Guwagego!?” (Frog)

He got surprised and started surveying his surroundings. Too bad, the sound is from this here vending machine. He poised his weapon. Though it would be funny if I spoke again... I really shouldn't do that. For a while, he just searched his surroundings again but he couldn't find anything and came back. Now that I'm looking at him this closely, it's amazing how real this is. I'm actually really bad with amphibians, and they become even more frightening with human size,

He stayed 1 meter away from me and looked around in circles. He doesn't understand what I am. After running in circles more he came back and he raised his arm... Oi, stop, what the fuck are doing with that stick?! I had no way of stopping the stick while he kept hitting me. I could only watch as it happened. The stick kept hitting the glass and I started shaking.

((Damage 3. Endurance decreased by 3))

What the hell is this message? It feels like a game saying things like damage and endurance. Ahh, fuck. Don't hurt the vending machine, god damnit, it's not what a living being should do. It may be a machine but it's form is a work of art.

((Damage 2. Endurance decreased by 2))

Fuck you, you lowly frog, don't get ahead of yourself. Just because I don't fight back

you -grrrr. It's a good thing I don't feel pain, but won't I break at this rate!? Hold on, what's this

[Endurance] . It feels more like life points rather than how much you can endure.

((When [Endurance] is exhausted, the vending machine will break and cease to function))

Ohhh, so it's like HP. I wonder how much is left. But I don't even know how to check how much endurance is remaining.....

[Vending Machine]

Endurance 95/100

Defense 10

Strength 0

Agility 0

Dexterity 0

Mana 0

<Functions> [Refrigeration] [Heat Insulation]

Oooh, something came. It's my status. Everything other than [Defense] and [Endurance] is zero. Oh well, those are of no use for a vending machine anyways. There also seems to be mana in this world, which means magic exists... Fuck, wouldn't a vending machine that can use magic be super cool? Sadly, I have no mana.

Shit, now's not the time for this. Wha- what should I do. If this keeps up I'm going to be destroyed. Isn't there any way to recover my endurance?

((You can spend points to heal [Endurance]))

It works. Just like that, hm. I still have 900 points left so, if I just ignore him he might give up.

As if nature were against me, 3 more humanoid frogs appeared. It picked up that flag

really fast. *[TL:In japan what we call cliché is flag]*

Shi- shit this is bad, really bad! One of the newcomers is carrying an axe. If that hits me I don't think I can survive.

((Damage 2, [Endurance] decreased by 2))

I know already, so shut up! Wha- what should I do. Isn't there any good function I can buy?! Pour hot water, roulette, cheer for the customer... Useless! It should be a grand function that can blow away my problems!

At that moment, I saw it. The perfect Function. Even though I don't have eyes.

[Transformation] PT 1000000000

Don't tell me, with this I can transform into a Robot or something? Truly every man's dream. Fuck, 1 billion points though... you really don't want me to get it don't you

It can't be this, I need to look for something more realistic, something to let me escape this disaster. Faster, faster, something more effective... hmmm, this one seems good.

[Divine Gift]

Divine Gift? I should read the description.

((Divine Gift- A Special power, granted by God himself. You can select one without depleting points))

Ooh, I can choose one for free! I don't really understand, but it should be something comparable to awesome magic right?! Yo- Yoshhh. This is the way to survival!

[Body Transformation] [Visibility] [Movement]

[Telepathy] [Absorption] [Extortion]

[Sword Skills] [Fire-Type Magic] [Water-Type Magic]

Oh, there are also Fighting and Sword type skills?! I don't have arms or legs, though.

Someday I will get Transformation so just wait!

Oops, right, it's not the time for this. I don't have mana so I can't use magic. Hmm, I might be able to communicate with telepathy but I have a feeling those frogs don't have good listening skills. There must be a suitable Divine Gift for us vending machines!

While looking through the list, I saw a Gift that could save me. It's name is [Barrier] . The effect listed is

((Surrounds the user with a barrier extending 1 meter out. You may choose who can enter or exit))

-This, this is it!!!!

((Damage 2, 3, 5 [Endurance] decreased by 10))

There's no time left. Divine Barrier, I choose you!

The moment I chose [Barrier] I felt a warm feeling inside me. I'm not sure what happened, but for now, [Barrier] , Activate!

"Gugegogogego!?" (Frog)

Oh, humanoid frog-san got knocked away. Haha, he fell on his ass. I gotta say something or my frustration won't go away. You really had fun hitting me, didn't you?

— "Please come again."

Haha, oh man that felt good. It might not understand it though. Humanoid Frog-san seems to have understood my insult and started rushing toward the barrier but the bluish white light surrounding me blocked his attacks, preventing him from getting any closer.

—"If you win, you get another one for free."

I tried to provoke him more. Oh, oh, it seems he's going berserk and rushing towards

me again. This barrier might be a formidable foe. Every time they attack it never penetrates the barrier and their weapons are easily knocked back.

Hahahahahaha, From now on I am the invincible and unbreakable vending machine!

((1 Point has been depleted 1 Point has been depleted 1 Point has been depleted...))

Wai- Wait! My points are being dried up like it's water in California!! What, does this barrier require points to sustain it? Eh, wait, it- it's about time for the Frog-sans to go home isn't it? Please go home.

— “Please come again.”

.....Ah.

The attacking got fiercer. I didn't mean to provoke you again! Nooo, the points are being depleted way too quick. Really, please give up for both of our sakes.

CHAPTER 3

THE BUYER

For a while the Humanoid Frogs stayed and kept hitting me, but once they realized it was useless they left looking sad. Phew, somehow I was able to survive... Let's check my status for now.

[Vending Machine]

Endurance 65/100

Defence 10

Strength 0

Agility 0

Dexterity 0

Mana 0

PT 346

<Functions> [Refrigeration] [Heat Insulation]

<Divine Gifts> [Barrier]

My points depleted so much. It's true that [Barrier] saved me but the consumption rate is outrageous. I don't think I can survive another attack from a monster. I'm actually in a really bad position right now. My [Endurance] is getting lower, and my elegant machine body is in a mess. Points are really precious but if I just sit here without spending it I'm eventually going to become broken anyways. Therefore, I decided to use the points in order to fix myself.

I spent 35 points, so I have 311 left over. In one day I use 24 points so I might be able to last 10 or more days. If there is no buyer till then my destiny is self-destruction. If that ever happens I will die huh... If so, isn't my new life turning out to be worse than my old life?—

And, like that, 3 days passed. No humans came.

I spotted a humanoid frog roaming around the vending machine and observing it. His fear gradually overcame him and forced him to make a weeeen sound. The feeling of tension was lingering around the atmosphere of the vending machine.

Haa, I wish I could have sold something as a vending machine before my death. Even though I was lucky enough to be reborn as a vending machine, I never got to do a vending machine's work.

"I am too hungry, aaa I dont think i can keep going... Why am I always this unlucky..."
(?)

Hu- Human's voice! God hasn't forsaken me!

It was the voice of a depressed female. It sounded like a young girl's voice. Where-where did the voice come from?!

I wonder if I can manage to communicate, but since I seem to be able to understand her language, there has to be a way for me to speak with her.

After all, my life at stake here.

"I was abandoned by my own teammates... Seriously, I'm useless because I always get scared even though I have the super strength divine gift..." (Girl)

Ohh, the sound is getting clearer and clearer, which must mean she is getting closer. She sounds really depressed and on the verge of death. She was abandoned by her comrades. Actually, isn't she the one who's life is at stake here since there are Humanoid Frogs everywhere?

"I dropped the pouch that had my food and drink... Uggh my stomach is rumbling like crazy... Aah, this is the worst day ever... Mom, Dad, I'm sorry but I don't think I can go on anymore." (Girl)

She started crying. She sounds like she's from the countryside, and her image of the world was just crushed. But why did she come to this dangerous place full of

monsters? Is she in the middle of a trip, or could there be a town or village nearby?

“I was never meant to become a [Hunter] . I’m sorry, Mom, Dad” (?)

So she was a [Hunter] huh. If it’s like those games then she must be out here hunting monsters, since the world is full of things like humanoid frogs. Also, if she’s a [Hunter] , then the second possibility is more likely.

“I don’t have anything to eat, what am I gonna do now... Maybe kill those [Frog-men] and with it’s meat... That won’t do, I won’t be able to land any attacks, plus I’m too hungry, so I don’t have any energy.” (Girl)

She said something about having a [Divine Gift] of super strength, so maybe she is confident in her strength but she’s bad at using weapons. Her dexterity seems really low.

Since she lost her belongings, she probably won’t have money. Unn, unnnnn, I can’t be sure but my expectations for her are beginning to get really low.

“Eh, what’s that? Some kind of monument? But, it’s strange for a monument to be made out of steel.” (Girl)

Oh, she noticed me. From the sound of it she seems to be getting closer. She’s behind me so I can’t really tell where she’s looking. Come on, come to the front.

While I was trying to send my desires to her telepathically, well, I don’t know if the telepathy worked, but I saw a girl coming towards the front side.

“Wha, what is this. It has a really beautiful body. Mumu, isn’t that a drink behind the glass?” (Girl)

Inclining her small head to the side, was a girl with a petite body. She has blonde hair, while her hairstyle has it tilted toward the side. This hairstyle, if I remember correctly, is called the side ponytail.

She looks to be around 160cm, [ED: 5’3”] maybe a little smaller. She has very big, round

eyes as well as a European styled petite nose, she looks like the cute type rather than the beautiful type. She has this atmosphere of adorableness, if she ever became an idol, she would get really famous.

The way she looked depressed with her eyes watering like that... damn, she is cute. Wait, am I a pervert or something? N- no, erm, ah!, her strange clothes just really caught my attention. Hahaha.....

Here boots look like they're made for mountain climbing, and she's also wearing blue shorts on top of black tights. It seems sensible so far but for her upper body, she's wearing something that looks like the bullet proof vests the police use during dangerous missions. No, wait, it's leather armour, right. There is also something like a shoulder pad, and some really strange looking gloves. How do I say it, it's truly a fantasy style. I observed her from head to toe and saw a pouch hanging on her belt. Doesn't this mean she does have money or precious gems?

"There's water, but how do I get it? There's a bunch of writing but I can't read it." (Girl)

I can understand her language, but she can't read the writing. There's already a problem even before buying anything. I need to guide her somehow.

"Maybe I can get it if I shatter the glass, but, that would be a waste of such a good looking item, so that won't do." (Girl)

–"Welcome."

"Wha, what, where did that voice come from" (Girl)

She is looking around. She kind of looks cute when she is scared but she's also really cautious right now. It won't do if she ran away here. I have to lure her in!

–"Please pay the balance by inserting coins."

"Heee, this piece of iron spoke? "Coin", does it mean money?" (Girl)

I want to answer her question but sadly I can't speak. I'm sorry but please try hard to find out yourself. My life is at stake here so please.

“E, eeto, is bronze okay for “coin”, ah, but it should be blue bronze..... Maybe silver is needed, no, wait, is it gold..... I don’t have that much money” (Girl)

So this world’s currency is bronze, blue bronze, silver, and gold. There might also be higher currencies. I don’t know the value of theses currencies though, but my guess is that bronze has a low value like 10 yen.

“So to insert a coin, I guess I just put it in this thin hole with the transparent lid?” (Girl)



Is she that careless, or is she just pure? Even in a situation where her life is hanging in the balance, she just puts in money. Her personality doesn't fit her rough lifestyle. But I'm thankful as she is still my first customer.

Yes yes, insert it in that hole, alright... alright.... and go! The sound of the foreign substance rings through my body. Karan. So she put in a bronze coin... I hope the points increase.....

((The coin is different. If you gain the [Coin Changer] function, you can convert it to points.))

Seriously? I remember seeing something like that before. Wai- wait for me. Eeto, around here...

Found it! It costs 100 points, I can do this!

"What, so a bronze coin won't do huh. Eh? Some number is showing... 10? Etto, one bronze and it increases by 10, if the number 1000 below it means anything then.... Uh, so each item is worth 1 silver coin each. If I have that much then I can pay for my dinner....."

What? When I used the [Coin Changer] the price changed. So, for 1 Bronze Coin it has a worth of 10 yen. If silver is 1000 yen then she can buy corn soup and milk-tea. Wait, can't the price stay at 100, h- how do I change it??

"Bu. but money can't be exchanged for life plus I'm really hungry. If I die here money will be meaningless anyways. There's no helping it, yo, yoooooshi, I'm doing it!"

This girl, when she gets excited or restless she starts talking with a dialect. The silver coin is inserted into my body, and it gets excited and heated up. Ooooh, she paid it! Hurry up, choose the item you want!

"The shining pointy thingy means I can buy something now right...th, then, eeto, maybe I should choose the one with the soup drawing."

Since the language can't be read, the icon can be understood much easier. I need to keep note of this. Her shaky finger pressed the button, and I dropped the corn soup in

the lower part of my body where the items normally come out.

“Wha, what was that!? I think heard something from below!” (Girl)

With caution she looked towards the place where items are dispensed. Yes, yes, good call. Come on, be brave and take it.

“Should I put my hand in? If I do, will it eat me?” (Girl)

I won’t, I won’t~. Quick, hurry up and take it. This corn soup is from my favorite brand.

“Ah, I got it. Waa, it’s so warm! Etto, I guess I should open the cap like it’s a glass bottle cap. Ei! Uwaaa, smells so nice” (Girl)

I know right~. She opened the lid, and tilted the can as she drank it.

“Fuaaaaaaa, Deliciouuuuus! Wha, what is this. The restaurant I frequent can’t even be compared to this!” (Girl)

Ooh, she drank it all at once. She licked the corn soup that was lingering on her lips, and looked really satisfied. Kuuuuuu, what is this, it feels so awesome. Somehow I feel really happy and fulfilled as a vending machine when I see how happy she looks.

“Haaa, it’s already finished. That was really tasty, so the others must be just as good. The transparent one must be water, so, that light brown drink, I must have!” (Girl)

Ah, she inserted another silver coin. She seems to have taken a liking to the milk-tea. Later, she also bought 3 corn soups, and a bottle of water.

I made a total of 6300 yen, which, in this world’s currency, would be 6 silver, and 30 bronze. If I convert it, then it’s 64 points. I think I’ll continue using these prices.

Perhaps because of how satisfied she felt, she fell into a deep sleep. Her back is leaning on me. She’s really defenseless, but I will protect her with a barrier if need be since she is my important customer.

Also, the empty cans and plastic bottles have vanished. This vending machine is really eco-friendly, huh.

CHAPTER 4

VENDING MACHINE MOVES

“Fuaah, I really slept well~. Good thing no monsters appeared.” (Girl)

The loli had just woken up and was patting her breasts with a sigh. Even though she’s kind of short she still has these big breasts. The leather armor restrains them somewhat but if you view them from below you can see that their shape is quite nice, with a deep valley in between.

“I lost quite a bit of money. Still, I was able to feed myself well, so, thank you very much.” (Girl)

The loli bowed towards the vending machine. What a nice girl. Really, I am the one who should be thankful to you. Thanks to her patronage I was able to extend my life, after all.

–“Thank you.”

Man, it’s a good that this pre-recorded voice comes with the vending machine. I was able to properly thank her.

“Eh, ah, yes. No problem. But, eeto, you can talk?” (Girl)

I want to respond, but I can’t think of any suitable audio. Isn’t there some way for me to get my feelings across?

“Eeto, could it be that you can only say specific things? One of my friends researches magic items, her name’s Ermin. Aah, I forgot to introduce myself. I’m called Ramis.” (Ramis)

Fumufumu. I must commit it to memory. My very first customer was Ramis. Yohsi, I won’t forget it.

“One of Ermin’s inventions is a machine that captures and releases voices. She thinks it might be useful in automatic advertisements. Perhaps, you are also like that? If i’m right, please say something, as that would make me really happy.” (Ramis)

Oh! A chance for me to communicate has come! Surprisingly, she has really good instincts. That was a pleasant miscalculation on my part.

–“Welcome.” [Yes]

“Uwah, you can understand! If Ermin saw this she would be really surprised. Ah, then if you like, you can substitute ‘Yes’ with ‘Welcome’. And, also, you can say something else for ‘no’ too.” (Ramis)

Amazing. It’s an amazing idea. If I can say “yes” or “no”, then I’m already at a level where I can communicate with her. Of course I’ll take her up on her offer!

–“Too bad.” [No]

“Puu, so you want to use that as ‘no’?” (Ramis)

–“Welcome.” [Yes]

“Well, then, right. Unn, I understand... Eeto, can you tell me your name?” (Ramis)

I can’t answer even though I want to. I’ll pray for a future where I can talk naturally.

–“Too bad.” [No]

“So you can’t even tell me your name, huh. Somehow, that’s really sad... Ah, yes, yes, why are you here? Do you have an important mission or something?” (Ramis)

–“Too bad.” [No]

“Unnn, how should I say this. Uhm, could it be that maybe, possibly... you are lonely?” (Ramis)

Eh, how did she know? Maybe she has some kind of divine gift that lets her understand the emotions of living thin- no, living machines like me.

–“Welcome.” [Yes]

“I knew it. You seemed really lonely when I looked at you from afar.” (Ramis)

What? Do I really look that pitiful? It is true that a single vending machine just sitting on the lakeshore will look lonely though.

“Is it okay if I move you?” (Ramis)

–“Welcome.” [Yes]

“Ah, just like that! Maybe if you want, we can get out of here and meet Ermin? She might be able to find a better way to talk with you.” (Ramis)

–“Welcome.” [Yes]

I would reaaally like to get out of here, but just how does she plan on moving me? I’m pretty sure she’s not just gonna carry me on her back. A tiny loli like her definitely won’t be able to carry a vending machine by herself.

“So, I can move you? Great, I was worried that I was being a bit too nosy but I’m glad that’s not the case.” (Ramis)

Oi, what are you trying to do by leaning on me like that. Ramis, could it be that, you’re trying to embrace me? No way... don’t tell me you’ve become a vending machine maniac too...

“Yoishotto!” (Ramis)

Fuaa? Eh, why am I levitating? Oi, oi, what the hell is this? A tiny loli is carrying an object weighing more than 500 kg?

“It’s a bit heavy but I can manage. Nnsho, nnsho” (Ramis)

Ooooooh, I'm moving! She's a bit slow but really, Ramis, you're incredible. So this is the super strength divine gift. Her fingers are penetrating me a little but I won't complain since I'm the one being carried.

Ooh, the lake is gradually getting smaller and smaller. I won't lie, I have some lingering attachments to this place. After all, i've been looking at that scenery since the moment I arrived in this world. Feeling grateful, I decided to bow down to the lake in my heart.

–“Thank you.”

She walked for two hours while carrying me, before finally putting me down near a huge boulder.

“Let's rest here for now. Ah, I should buy that creamy flavoured yellow soup. I'm getting hungry.” (Ramis)

“From the moment I met you luck's been on my side. I didn't meet any [Frog-men] even though this is their territory.” (Ramis)

That's not entirely true. There might have been no battles but I definitely saw Humanoid Frogs observing us from afar with fear in their eyes. Maybe rumours about me have spread amongst them.

Unnn, she sure is hungry. No good, corn soup won't fill her up. I need something heavy, something that will really make her full.

Currently, I have 268 points. I'm scrolling through the list of 10 point items. I'm kinda low on points, but, Ramis really helped me so it can't be helped.

Hmm, a food with high calories and a good, strong texture. *Oshiruko* [ED: red bean soup] might be good since girls tend to like sweet things. Ah, but foreigners usually dislike red beans. Apparently they think it looks like mud or something.

In that case, a hamburger or cup ramen would be good, but they both require special functions. I don't have enough points to mess around yet, so that's out.

Something canned... Ah, right, there was something like that. It's really famous. Haaa, but it costs 30 points. Ah, I wanted to buy oden in a can, *[ED: Boiled eggs, radish, yam cakes, and fish cakes in a soy flavor dashi broth. It's a mostly fishy soup.]* but I guess the good ones that will make more money also cost more points in return. I should remember that.

I really need to keep my point expenditures to minimum here; I can't choose something so expensive.

Therefore, I should choose something with a price of 1000 yen, or 1 silver. Ah, I remember there were snacks too. Eeto, found it, found it, it's not quite potato chips but it's still a product made out of hardened and baked mashed potatoes. I quickly exchanged it with another one of the mineral waters.

"Heu! Th, that surprised me. Something was glowing... Ah, one of the food items changed? What's this red package? It has a picture of a round thingy, is it food?" (Ramis)

–"Welcome." [Yes]

"Ah, so that's it.... Maybe I should buy it since it's the same price." (Ramis)

Her hunger won over her curiosity, and she tore open the bag with her mouth.

"Fuaaa, what's with this texture. It's so salty, but I can't stop." (Ramis)

She bought mineral water and drank it with her snack. It seems she's addicted. Well, I can't blame her, it is a devilishly delicious snack.

"Aah, my money is being drained, but I can't stooooop." (Ramis)

–"Thank you."

I told her I was grateful. Her wallet's sacrifice will not be forgotten.

I made 6 silver, or 6000 yen. That's 60 in points, so now I'm at 320.

Right, now that I know how to change the price I should set the mineral water to 1000 yen. With this, all my items cost 1000.

If Ramis goes broke, I'll lower the price. Until then, I'll keep making her spend more and more since my life is on the line.

CHAPTER 5

GATE GUARD AND THE SETTLEMENT

“We are nearing the entrance of this floor. Please wait patiently for a bit more. That settlement is a large village, so you can get some rest once we reach it” (Ramis)

Floor? What does she mean by floor? Unless the sky is beneath some kind of roof, this is definitely outdoors.

I don't really get it but I'm happy since there seems to be people here. I want them to buy all my items and get a ton of profit~.

We haven't gotten attacked since we left our resting place, so I didn't need to activate <Barrier> at all. The [Frog-men] are still just quietly observing and don't attack. Their information network seems to be good.

Ramis does have her super strength, but her stamina is also something else. She's been walking for 5 hours while carrying me. She really does have what it takes to be a hunter.

“Ah, I can see the settlement! Yes! I made it back alive!” (Ramis)

She lost hope when she was abandoned by her comrades, but was able to return thanks to me. It's no wonder there are tears are welling up in her eyes.

I was carried all the way here like it was no big deal, but if it was anyone other than Ramis I probably would have died and gotten scavenged. She said she was lucky but I think I'm even luckier.

The wall looks like it was built manually out of wood, and it could be seen stretching towards the road. It had a height of 2 meters. [ED: 6.56 ft] This is turning out to be quite the settlement.

Standing In what looks to be the front gate, there were two muscular, bald men

wearing dirty leather armor. I'm sure they can become fantastic pro wrestlers one day.

"Oh? If it isn't Ramis. Thank god you're alright, your friends came back looking half dead, so I was really worried!" (Pro Wrestler)

The man spoke with a wide smile that indicated he was happy for Ramis's safe return. He had a scar that seemed to have been caused by a sword. Even though he looks really scary, I guess he has a kind and good personality.

"Yes, I was somehow able to survive! Karios-san, sorry for making you worried."
(Ramis)

After setting me on the ground, Ramis bowed toward them. She really has an adorable personality. The guard with the X scar on his forehead was staring at Ramis and the other guards were just talking to each other with narrowed eyes. They could almost be described as smiling, too.

"I'm glad you're alright, but... what is that thing?" (Karios)

"Ah, this? I found it by the lakeshore. I think it's some kind of magic item. When you insert money in it it dispenses items, isn't this boy amazing?" (Ramis)

This boy. Ramis should be younger than me, but if I'm only counting the days in this world then I guess I'm closer to a newborn child.

"Hooo, this must be the experiment of some magic item researcher, or a treasure. But, I've never heard of something like this appearing in the [Lakeshore] floor of [Clear Stream] . And we've been gate guards for, what, 5 years Golsu?

"Aa" (Golsu)

So the skinhead with the sword scar is Karios, and the quiet one with the X scar is Golsu. Karios is probably the speaker for the two of them, since the other guy is way too quiet.

"If it's an invention, am I not allowed to take it? (Ramis)

“Ma, I was just guessing. Plus, anything picked up in a dungeon belongs to the person who picked it up. It’s common sense in a dungeon.” (Karios)

Dungeon? Eh, you guys are saying stuff like Floor, so this place is a dungeon’s first floor..... Eh, there’s a sky too, you know? No matter how you look at it it doesn’t look like it’s underground. Seriously, what’s going on with this world.

“You said something about being able to buy items if we insert money, so can we buy anything right now?” (Karios)

“Yes, I think it’s alright. It’s alright, right?” (Ramis)

Ramis looked to my side and asked. The answer is already decided.

–“Welcome” [Yes]

“Ouh ah!? What was that? I just heard a man’s voice.” (Karios)

“Ahahaha. It’s alright Karios-san. It was this boy who replied, ya.” (Ramis)

–“Welcome” [Yes]

“E, for real? I never of heard of some talking magic item. Wouldn’t something like this be able to be sold at a high price....” (Karios)

“I, I won’t sell! This boy and I will go meet Ermin together!” (Ramis)

She spread her arms as if she was trying to shield me.

Uuuuuu, such a good girl. Even though it was for the sake of my precious points, I’m sorry for scamming you with high prices.

“Oh, that psycho Magic Item crafter Ermin? There was this time where she stayed in this settlement before. She’s got a crazy amount of knowledge so that’s a good idea.” (Karios)

What's with his description, it's making me worried. A crafter that was described as a psychopath even before her name can't be any good. Somehow, I don't want to meet her.

"I know right~. So, what did you guys want to buy?" (Ramis)

"Ou, since you're the one persuading us it must be safe, but...1000 meaning one silver, it's not cheap. Oh? This, how does this item work?" (Karios)

"Eeto, that one is a tasty water. And this one is a tea with milk inside. Theses two are really cold. And the one below this is a warm yellow soup. The last one is this red thingy, it tastes like a fried Zugiuma." (Ramis)

[Tl: Zugiuma is not a Japanese, a made up word for the novel]

"So there are warm and cold items. Then, i'll take the soup and the fried thing. What do you want Golsu?" (Karios)

"I will take the sweet milk." (Golsu)

–"Please pay the balance by inserting coins."

They were a bit surprised, but with the help of Ramis they both managed to insert their silver.

When they finished the transaction and received their items, I thanked them with

–"Please come again in the future."

"Ahh, the soup is really warm." (Karios)

"This one is quite cold." (Golsu)

They both drank it in one go.

"What's this! Oi oi, this taste is way too good." (Karios)

“This one also is delicious.” (Golsu)

“How ‘bout this fried thingy..... Ooh, this is amazing, it’s kind of heavy but I can’t stop.”
(Karios)

[ED: Heavy is probably describing some quality of the food, not the weight.]

“Give me some.” (Golsu)

Ramis looked really happy looking their exchange. She looks so happy she’s about to cry. If I had a face right now I’d probably be the same.

Karios was being stingy and didn’t give much of the potato snack to Golsu, so he ordered one for himself. After, when Karios saw Golsu drinking milk tea, he got curious so he also got one for himself. Both of them took a liking to the products so they ended up buying all the different items in the machine. Karios’s favorite was corn soup, while Golu’s was milk tea.

I made a profit of 9000 yen, 9 silver. This time, I’m grateful to my rich customers since my points have increased by 90.

“Iyaa, this is amazing. The quality was extremely high, and it even had different temperatures. Hey, can’t you leave it here? When we’re on watch, we can’t go that far. If you left this here it would really help us out.” (Karios)

“...True.” (Golsu)

Aa, I see. If I were to be placed here there would be proper customers so my income wouldn’t be that bad.

“Unn, should I do that? Buut, I don’t want to be separated from this boy....” (Ramis)

“If that’s the case, then you can just bring it around occasionally. If you did, I would definitely buy something. I’ll also tell others about it.” (Karios)

“Why not buy rope? It will be easier to carry.” (Golsu)

Oo, that's a nice idea. Being carried by a beautiful girl ain't bad but it would make it easier on Ramis.

"Ah, that's not a bad idea. Would you like that too?" (Ramis)

–"Welcome" [Yes]

"Guess it's ok then. Then, I will be coming here together with him sometime later."
(Ramis)

"Oh, do your best. With this, maybe being in the watch will be a little more fun."
(Karios)

"It would help us" (Golsu)

With this, I'm glad because it looks like I've gotten a stable income. Since points are everything for me. I want to quickly add new items and functions. Collecting points is the first and foremost important mission.

"Let's go to my inn. You gotta move on with the thing before..." (Ramis)

Ou, I'm sorry. I bankrupted you. If I manage to make room for extra spending, I want to give her some income. I might as well check later when I'm bored.

Each camp is a shop or lodging area. People around the gate are looking at me with curious gazes.

"That's the inn I was staying at." (Ramis)

There stood a 2 story building made out of wood.

CHAPTER 6

STRATEGY TO EARN

“Landlady. I’m home!” (Ramis)

Ramis rushed into the room bursting with energy. There was a well-built woman holding a broom, but her jaw dropped once she spotted us.

“You- you were alright! I was really worried you know? Haa, you’re not undead right? You’re really breathing right?” (Landlady)

“I’m fine, I’m fine. Some stuff happened and I was somehow able to make it back.” (Ramis)

Ramis explained this to the landlady, who was touching every inch her body to make sure she was okay. I’m not sure if the people in this town are just kind or if Ramis is naturally loveable, but it’s clear she’s not being treated poorly by the people here.

“The teammates you were working with came back looking all injured, they were saying stupid things like how you had died. But, I never believed them and scolded them for saying such things!” (Landlady)

“I must’ve worried Munina also. I should apologize to her later—-” (Ramis)

“Aaaaaaaaaaah! Ramiiii!” (?)

Ramis turned her attention towards the young girl that was coming down the stairs. She was carrying a basket full of clothes for washing. Her red hair was in braids and she had a triangular napkin on her waist. Her clothes are most likely an inn costume since she is wearing similar clothes to the landlady’s, a dull gray apron skirt.

She’s not the beautiful type, rather, she’s more like a dull maid with sharp eyes. She ran straight into Ramis and with great force tackl-... hugs her.

“Eh, you’re alive! You’re not undead right?!” (?)

“Mu- Munina, I’m alive, I’m definitely alive!” (Ramis)

So she is Munina, the landlady’s daughter. They’re definitely family, they both said the same thing. She’s shaking Ramis up and down so hard her head is about to fall off. You should probably stop...

“Geeez, do you know how much you made us worry? Those guys Rami went with had the nerve to come back after abandoning you, so I spread rumours about them to make sure they’ll never be able to get a job again. Fufufufu” (Munina)

Ahh, her smile’s really scary. So she’s the type of person that gets like ‘that’ if you anger her.

“So that’s why they ran away from here...” (Landlady)

The landlady is sighed.

“What’s that heavy thing by the entrance?” (Landlady)

“Aa, I found this boy in the [Lakeshore] ” (Ramis)

“Rami, did you pick up something weird again? Last time you brought a Frogman’s baby, it cause quite an uproar, remember?” (Munina)

“N, nn. Bu- but this time is different, okay? This boy helped me out. He’s really useful, you know?” (Ramis)

The looked at her with great suspicion. Even though she’s a little scared she still talked about our meeting and my abilities.

“I think I understand but... Rami, how will you pay for the [Teleportation Circle] to transport you the Surface to meet Ermin? Do you even have enough money for an inn? You also seem to have lost your bags.” (Munina)

“Ah, Yes. I don’t have anything.... I can’t do anything about it” (Ramis)

Reminded of her painful situation, Ramis lost all her strength and buried her face in her thigh, emitting an extremely depressing aura.

...Most of her savings are in my body. The words that stood out to me during their conversation were [Teleportation Circle] , surface, and dungeon.

So, this place is a dungeon and to return to the surface you need to pay money and use a [Teleportation Circle] . And Ramis is broke.

Sorry.

But, inside a dungeon, huh. It doesn’t feel real, but, i’m a vending machine, so it’s already useless worrying about things like reality or common sense. I just need to accept things the way they are.

I want to enter their conversation but all I can say is “Welcome.”, “Thank you very much.”, etc. While I was thinking things like this, the conversation began to come to an end.

“Hu, I guess there’s no choice. Rami, you work here in the inn for a while. Put that box thingy outside, it’ll attract customers while selling its items, so it’s a win-win.” (Landlady)

Oh, just how I want it.

–“Welcome.” [Yes]

“Uwah, he really talks. Then, please work hard attracting customer.” (Landlady)

“Ah, but, the entrance guards said they wanted me to bring him around sometimes.” (Ramis)

“That’s fine.” (Landlady)

“Ha~i” (Ramis)

[ED: That means yes, in case you didn't know.]

That is how I came to live in the settlement.

There are around 100 people here but the number varies a lot. The only permanent residents are the people selling items to [Hunters] . The [Hunters] job is to subjugate monsters, gather materials, or act as escorts. There is also a [Hunter's Guild Branch] here, and they provide requests for the [Hunters] .

The place I'm currently in is the dungeon floor known as the [Clear Stream Lakeshore] . Even though this is the inside of a dungeon there's a sky... I have to admit, this place is really amazing.

On this Floor, it takes 3 weeks to travel from one bridge to another. The living things around here are mostly just the Frogmen and some fish. There were some others that were mentioned but I don't really know the details. I got the information from Ramis, who talks to me daily, and by eavesdropping on the customers in the inn. And also by...

“...and so I said, ‘My job is to protect this place from the criminals.’” (Karios)

This entrance guard seriously has too much free time on his hands.

–“Welcome.” [Yes]

“Lately, the Frogmen have been really active so there's a lot of injuries. They might form a huge subjugation team soon.” (Karios)

–“Welcome.” [Yes]

I only need to say something to show I'm listening so it's really easy work. But, a subjugation team huh... That must be why I've been seeing a lot of new [Hunters] this week.

“I'm a little thirsty, but I'm getting tired of all the drinks here.” (Karios)

Of course you would get tired if you bought it 5 times a day! I guess it is time to add a new item though. I've amassed quite the number of points. Thanks to my unique and excellent taste, people have been buying a ton of my food.

[Vending Machine]

[Mineral Water] (Cold) 1000¥ / 1 silver (130)

[Milk-Tea] (Cold) 1000¥ / 1 silver (24)

[Corn Soup] (Hot) 1000¥ / 1 silver (19)

[Potato Snack] (Warm) 1000¥ / 1 silver (36)

PT 3253

<Functions> [Refrigeration] [Heat insulation]

<Divine Gifts> [Barrier]

I've earned 3000 points even if you count the daily restocking costs. I've been hesitant to spend them since I might need them for an emergency, and I also want to try getting new functions too. Most of the functions I want cost 1000 so it's really pricy, but if I just add one then there shouldn't be a problem.

Ah, is it okay to add different types of items to the store? For example, if I add the hot water function for cup ramen then my body will transform. I'm worried it might affect the other items... but then again I'm a vending machine that can use [Barrier], add new functions, and I have a will of my own, so I guess I don't need to worry about something like that?

U, um, I've been thinking about what the customers want. The entrance guards Karios and Golsu are my number one regulars. What were they asking for again? They said something about a food that was heavy and filling. If that's that case, Oden would do, but I'm not sure they would know how to open the lid. And I can't really explain it to them either.

Maybe I should just... No, wait, this is perfect! I just remembered something. First, I specified the brand then paid 30 points for the Oden Can (100).

[ED: Parentheses indicates stock.]

“Hoh, I suspected there would be a new item when you started shining, but... 3000. That’s 3 silver isn’t it?! But I can’t just miss out on the opportunity to try a new item!”
(Karios)

I know exactly how you feel! The supernatural charm of a new item is scary right~? Plus, when the picture of the hot delicious meal is shown, how can you not get hungry?! Actually, now that I think about it, they can read the numbers but not the words? Well, if I’m asking that then I would need to ask why I can understand what they’re saying in the first place, so let’s just say it’s magic and not think too hard.

You can earn money in dungeons but there’s high risk. However, that means there’s high reward as well. In other words the economy down here is booming, which is one of the reasons merchants like to do business here. In addition, they have the opportunity to buy rare stock obtained from the dungeons.

Therefore, there is plenty of money to go around in the settlement filled with danger, which is why those entrance guards can afford to buy my super expensive items. If I tried to sell at these prices on the surface, my business wouldn’t be doing as well.

“Hou, it’s hot. Hey, how the heck do you open this?” (Karios)

I knew it, here comes the hard part. But look properly at the can, okay? Karios and Golsu both have a strong attention to detail, so I trust they’ll be able to do it. Karios was moving the cup up and down while looking at it. Golsu also seemed interested so he glanced towards Karios several times. A little while later, they both managed to notice it.

“Un? There’s a drawing here. Oh, so this is how you open it!” (Karios)

Indeed, this machine has instructions for those who don’t know how to eat oden. This was sold at an electronics store where it became popular with foreigners. Even if you don’t understand the language you can understand it by looking at this well-designed drawing.

“Eeto, just flick this, pull that, and then... Oh, it smells so nice. Then, finally, push this part and- it opened, it opened~!” (Karios)

Nice job. From here on I can provide those two with these kinds of cans. Now, the types of items I can sell has increased. Those two will spread news of this item so I need to be ready for it.

Karios took out the Oden which is on a stick. There’s an egg, a chikuwa, and Konjak, the golden trio stick!

[ED: Originally it said there was a golden trio stick in addition to the other things, but again, I found no mention of it so I just assumed the 3 items were collectively referred to as the golden trio stick.]

[TL: chikuwa is a Japanese tube-like food product made from ingredients such as fish surimi, salt, sugar, starch, monosodium glutamate and egg white.]

[ED again: Konjac is a jello-like thing made with a yam substitute instead of gelatin.]

“Hoaaauu, crazy, this is dangerous. This might be my favorite one yet. The boiled egg is sort of unique but it also has a really strong taste, the moment I bite into it the flavour spreads through my mouth. Shit, this is bad~. I really wish I had alcohol to go with this.” (Karios)

After eating the egg he goes for the chikuwa.

“Kuuu- this one is also really food. I can’t stop. It’s my first time eating something of this texture. There’s a slight fish taste mixed in too. How did they make this? The next one... Ooooooh, it has a guni-guni texture, not bad. Hahahah, this it too funny.” (Karios)
[ED: guni-guni is probably an onomatopoeia. I think he was referring to the konjac so maybe it means gummy texture?]

He seemed to have taken a liking to the Oden. He drank the remaining soup and looked really satisfied. He began to take out another 3 silver but before he could Golsu inserted his own money and bought the Oden.

“Y- you! I was about to buy that!” (Karios)

“I’m next” (Golsu)

This guy also loved it. It seems I can expect the Oden to go out of stock. And so, this is how Oden came to be famous in the [Clear Steam Lakeshore] dungeon. The cold weather also contributed my sales.

CHAPTER 7

THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF A VENDING MACHINE

My daily schedule is like this:

In the morning, I start my day in front of the inn. I don't really need to sleep but I learned how to enter "sleep mode", which decreases the constant depletion of points. I don't feel tired if I neglect sleeping, but if I do sleep then when I wake up it feels refreshing.

"Morning, Hakkon." (Ramis)

Even though it's morning, her voice is loud and energetic. Right now, her inn employee clothes look good. Also, my name seems to be Hakkon now. The one who named me is, of course, Ramis. That Munina from the inn called me a box (hako in Japanese) and Ramis thought it sounded cute so she started calling me Hakkon.

I didn't think her naming sense was good, but when I saw her excited face I couldn't help but saying

—"Welcome." [Yes]

"Let's work hard today too!" (Ramis)

—"Welcome." [Yes]

While cleaning my body with a rag, she talks to me as usual. I think her working in a peaceful place like an inn suits her more but I guess she has her own reasons for working as a [Hunter] . To convey my feelings of wanting together, I drop her one of the sports drinks.

"Is it okay for me to have it again?" (Ramis)

—"Welcome." [Yes]

“Thank you!” (Ramis)

When I see her drinking and looking happy like that it really warms my cold, machine heart. These days I’ve been learning more about the vending machine’s systems, and now I can give out free drinks.

My body which was washed earlier this morning is now shining in the morning light. I should work hard on my sales today too. Soon after the loli went back into the inn, more of my regulars appeared.

–“Welcome.”

“Hai, mornin’. I can’t start my day without drinking this soup.” (Regular A)

“Granny, me too! I love the sweet tea so much that without it I don’t feel any motivation to work.” (Regular B)

“No, no, for the morning it’s gotta be water. A drink right after you wake is best.” (Regular C)

An old-ass couple and some skinny looking boy are all talking to each other. The old couple both work as retired [Hunters] and teach new [Hunters] the ropes. There’re rumours that that couple used to be amazing [Hunters] . About that twig boy, he always comes to the inn for lunch. I heard from Ramis that he has a crush on Munina.

–“Thank you. Please come again.”

I thank them always, then watched as they walked off. Immediately after, 4 strong looking men showed up.

“Fuu, I’m finally done with the night watch. What should I pick today?” (?)

–“Welcome.”

My number one customer Karios and his group showed up. These people work as gatekeepers for the settlements and are in charge of maintaining the safety of the

people. They usually come around this time. Like usual, they bought drinks and potato snacks. After their group, I always have a bit of free time. By the way, I don't sell the oden cans while I'm in front of the inn. I don't want to disturb their sales, after all.

From this point on the number of customers continue to decrease. The price is kinda high so the number of people who can buy every day is low, and most customers only buy things 2-3 times a week.

It was a bit before lunch, when a bunch of people wearing heavy armour showed up from the direction of the [Hunter's Guild] .

"Today, we can return without needing to stay overnight, but don't forget to purchase a drink. If you have extra money it's also good to get a can with lots of ingredients and that snack with the red wrapper." (Hunter A)

"Eeto, how do I buy things from here?" (Hunter B)

"You don't know? Here, let me teach you." (Hunter A)

A person who appeared to be their leader with his black armor and long beard explained how to buy things while looking proud. If I remember correctly he came here 4 days ago. He chose a time when no one was around and bought a huge amount of items. Maybe he was practicing how to use the machine then? His fierce looking face was starting to look kinda cute so it felt off.

The trash from the vending machine disappears after the product is used, so it's popular among [Hunters] that go out hunting or searching. For female [Hunters] , the tea seems to be popular. Recently, I stocked up on lemon tea and milk-tea, and I heard there were factions fighting over them.

I also added coffee but it seems unpopular. But, there is a small group of people who buy it every day so I didn't remove it, but maybe I should change it to cafe ole.

[TL: Cafe ole, is a milk coffee]

Around this time, there are some [Hunters] that are just waking up so I put the oden can up.

After my rush hour ended, I caught sight of something small moving, I definitely didn't miss it. Damn, that brat actually came again. Every day around this time a girl comes by. She has brown hair done in twin tails; no matter how you look at it she's just a cheeky brat. She can't be more than 10 years old.

She wears clothes that look much more expensive compared to the other people living in this settlement, a typical spoiled ojou-chan.

I don't think it's safe for a little girl to be wandering around alone in a place that only has a wooden gate to guard it against monsters. She's the daughter of the wealthiest rock architecture merchant here. I noticed a while ago, but, even though she looks like she's travelling alone there are guards following her secretly. Well, the only reason I know that is because the guard talking here bought milk-tea while complaining about his job.

"Haa, Suori-sama's tomboyish acts are giving us a hard time. If only she acted just a little bit more like a lady, our work would be easier." (Guard)

I felt a lot of pity for the black clothes man, but right now I want to tell them, discipline this brat properly! This Suori girl is way beyond just being a tomboy.

When she first saw me, she had a look of curiosity on her face so I said "Welcome", and she jumped and ran away really quickly. At that time I thought her reaction was cute but right now I want to punch myself for thinking that.

The problems started the day after that. At first, she was just observing me from afar, now, I don't know what the hell she was thinking but she suddenly threw a rock at me. A rock thrown by a powerless little girl like her didn't hurt, but it pissed me off. I let it go since she was just a child, but she came again the next day.

That time she came while carrying a bag. I thought maybe, this time, she had come to buy something, but no, she started packing rocks in her bag. This time, she went over the line so I said as loud as I could

–"Please pay the balance by inserting coins."

When I shouted at her she was really close, so she got scared and dropped to the floor.

“Im-impudent! D-do you kn-, do you know fu ai amiya?” (Suori)

There was a lot of weird slurring but it seemed like she was really angry. After that, the black clothes man jumped out and picked her up. While she was being carried off, she was shouting “Destroy him!” or something. As you can see, it only got worse as the days went by.



She must have a lot of pride, and couldn't forgive me for surprising her. She started pestering me with stupid but dangerous things. She tried to throw something like paint but I scared her by speaking again so the paint only got on herself. Then, she tried to hit me with a stick, but she fell down and started crying. She never actually did anything, but at the same time, it's not like I can just laugh and let her off easy.

And now I'm being cautious as to what she's planning this time but... ara? She is looking down and walking sadly. It's obvious that she's crestfallen. If she were acting then she would deserve an Oscar, but she's stupid so I don't think she could pull it off. Nn, she didn't do anything criminal-like and was just standing there doing nothing. When she raised her head I saw she had some tears in her eyes that were about to fall. Did something happen with her family?

When an annoying brat who was always happy suddenly becomes this sad, even I wouldn't do something bad, otherwise, I couldn't call myself a human anymore. Oh, wait. Well, at least as an adult I should do something for her.

I looked through the items and searched for a drink a kid might like. I guess orange juice will do.

Ora yotto, I dropped the orange juice for free. FOR FREE! Haha, I'm such a responsible adult.

[ED: I think Ora yotto means something similar to "Here we go!"]

"Eh, what was that sound?" (Suori)

—"Welcome."

Today is the house, but next time, please pay alright?

"I can take it?" (Suori)

Holding the orange juice and looking surprised like that, at least her face is cute. Wait, I'm not a lolicon, alright?

"Ah, um, thanks." (Suori)

— “Please come again.”

The circumstances might be strange, but I wish these peaceful days would just continue. I truly wish that from the bottom of my heart.

CHAPTER 8

GUILD MASTER

I woke up in front of the inn, feeling happy.

In the beginning, there were some who tried to steal me, but these days it's peaceful. That twin-tailed princess stopped pestering me, and now she's properly buying my items. Her favorite is orange juice so I've been thinking about adding more fruit juices in the future.

Usually, the granny couple and the boy come around at this time, but today there's a new customer... He's been staring at me for a while without moving an inch.

Usually, around this time, the grandpa and grandma couple plus the youth would be here but today a new customer was here..... He's been staring at me for a while without moving a bit.

As a vending machine, my height is around 180cm [ED: 5'9"] but the bear in front of me is larger. I think it's fine for me to call him that since he really does look like a bear.

He has black fur and is wearing a long coat with the hood up. I wasn't kidding, it's literally a bear. I thought that if something like him walked around town there would be a huge ruckus, but nobody even gave him a second glance.

So, in this world a bear-man is considered normal. I guess there are even humanoid frogs so what can I say, right...?

"Ara, guildmaster, what are you doing here?" (?)

A loud and energetic voice came out of the inn. Of course, it's Ramis. Just now she called the bear "guildmaster". Even though he looks like a thug I guess he is someone in a high position. If that's the case then he must have intelligence, maybe?

"Fumu, It's just Ramis" (Guildmaster)

Deep... between his body and his voice, he must have a large presence. From just his voice, I can tell he feels like a boss that can be relied on.

“How rare for the [Hunter] guildmaster to come all the way out here.” (Ramis)

“Fumu. Today I came to ask a request of the magic tool with a will.” (Guildmaster)

Eh, me? The [Hunter] guildmaster should be someone with an important position. Just what kind of request would an important man like that make?

“So you came for Hakkon. Then, let’s go inside and have a talk! Hakkon, I will carry you, k? Yoishottooo.” (Ramis)

By now, I’ve gotten used to being carried like this. It feels as though I’m a kid being looked after. For a guy like me who can’t even move by himself, I feel like her presence in my life will only get bigger.

I’ve been placed on a chair at a round table, with the bear guildmaster sitting across from me. When he sat he made a “Dotton!” sound. Damn, he must be heavy. By the way, Ramis is sitting right next to me.

“Your super strength is valuable to us [Hunters] , why don’t you come back?” (Guildmaster)

“I, having fun working here at the inn. Besides, even if I go back no one will team up with me... “ (Ramis)

“Fumu, I don’t think that’s true. Well, feel free to come back anytime you like.” (Guildmaster)

“Thank you, guildmaster” (Ramis)

I thought Ramis wasn’t a good [Hunter] but I guess the guildmaster’s evaluation of her is really high. I suppose if she teams up with someone who has a high compatibility with her power, then she can bring out her talent.

“What I wanted to talk about is the subjugation squad being formed to raid the [Frog-men] territory. And I want you, Hakkon, to participate in it.” (Guildmaster)

What an unexpected request. Does he expect me to fight?

“Eh, Hakkon can’t fight you know?” (Ramis)

“I know. I want him to provide food and drink while we are traveling. We should have enough but you never know what might happen in situations like these. Some warm food you can eat right away is invaluable to the morale of [Hunters] . Of course, we will still pay. I will also give you a bonus fee for the work. What do you think?” (Guildmaster)

I think this request is not bad. The [Frog-men] are somewhat afraid of me so they probably won’t attack me. Plus, with that many [Hunters] , my income will skyrocket.

But, how do they plan on moving me? Maybe a carriage or something.

“What do you think Hakkon? Do you want to take the request?” (Ramis)

–“Welcome.” [Yes]

I answered instantly. If I’m going to be living here then it’s not bad building a good relationship with the guilmmaster. Maye with this, I can become more famous and attract more customers. I will let the [Hunters] remember the taste of my items and get them addicted.

“So Hakkon will go. Then, I will also participate.” (Ramis)

It’s nice seeing her volunteer like that but I don’t want Ramis to do a dangerous job. I believe it’s better for her to keep working in the inn rather than be a [Hunter] .

“So, Ramis is also going to participate. Then, I want you to team up with Hakkon and be in charge of transportation and distributing the food and drink.” (Guildmaster)

“Haai. Entrust Hakkon to me!” (Ramis)

So she is going to be with me. Then, I guess there won't be too much danger. If I have to I can also use [Barrier] to protect her. I guess it's alright for her to participate then.

Even if we don't participate, the [Frog-men] might attack and destroy the settlement, and at that time I'm sure Ramis will be in danger.

The conversation finished so the bear guildmaster left. The subjugation unit will leave in 3 days, so I should prepare. I need to stock up on food, and think about what people would like.

Then, the day of subjugation came
I was already placed in a basket. (Shoiko)

There were around 30 [Hunters], male and female, around me. They left a few behind to guard the town but most of the [Hunters] will participate in the mission. The lives of the settlement are important, but the [Teleportation Circle] is far too important to be lost. It can instantly transfer people between this floor and the surface.

Many people from the from the upper floors also utilize it. On each floor, there is a floor guardian. If you can defeat it, a [Teleportation Circle] will appear, and you can use it to go to the next floor. Even if you weren't the one to defeat the guardian you can still use the [Teleportation Circle] at the entrance, and travel to any floor where the guardian was defeated.

The deeper you go, the stronger the enemies become, but some floors have a low rate of strong monsters appearing, so it's easier to earn there. One such floor is this one, the [Clear Stream Lakeshore]. Karios was bragging about it before.

However, there is nothing scarier than numbers. During their breeding season the [Frog-men] produce tons of babies and they all become adults before the winter. I heard from Munina that that's why it's so dangerous around this time.

“This season came around again.” (Hunter A)

“Let’s not think too much about the danger, and instead earn tons of money!”
(HunterB)

A pair of what look to be veteran warriors are talking to each other. They seemed really reliable. This happens every year so many [Hunters] come. It’s a good time to earn for merchants, or so I heard.

“H- hey. Let’s just go. We shouldn’t work ourselves too much.” (Hunter C)

“Unn. We can still aim for the left overs and earn enough money.” (Hunter D)

“Unn. We can aim for the left over and still earn enough money”

Newbies like these that were really nervous were also participating. I’m sure it will be fine with so many people but... there are much more [Frog-men] active this year than last year. In case of an emergency, I want to be able to escape and protect Ramis but... haa, I wish I had [Transformation] .

“Hakkon, you’re not feeling uncomfortable are you?” (Ramis)

–“Welcome” [Yes]

She’s been worrying and talking to me like this, I guess it’s also a way for her to relieve her own anxiousness. She seems a bit pale.

I forgot what they call units that carry supplies, I remember my friend that was really into the military talking about it before. Was it logistics? I guess I can just call them the Transportation squadron. This squadron doesn’t have to participate in the battle. Instead, they are guarding a horned boar carrying luggage—We are going to act together with the boar carriage.

It seems the guildmaster understands the importance of supplies, since he assigned 6 [Hunters] to guard us.

“Calm down. Our ability is at least mid-class. It’s easy for us to defeat [Frog-men] .” (?)

A wild-looking guy wearing a long hat with a pointy tip spoke to us. He looked like a cowboy from some western film, but he had a sword on his waist instead of a gun. He's the leader of this guard team, so it looks like he's someone who has a lot of experience. I've never seen him before so he must have traveled here to participate in the event.

A guy wearing a long hat with pointy front, with a wild look on him, talked to us. He looks like a cowboy from a western film, but he is equipped with a sword rather than a gun in is a waist.

He is the leader of the guard team here, he looks like a person with lots of experience. I've never seen him before so he must have come from outside to participate in the event.

"Hai, I will be in your care!" (Ramis)

She bowed very deeply so I nearly hit the man, so he jumped backwards.

"Uotto, so this is the famous box with a will. There are rumours about you in the settlement." (Cowboy)

"This boy is Hakkon. If you insert money you can buy anything on the display, and when you press the button, your item will come out." (Ramis)

Ramis is getting better at explaining me now. At first, not many people knew how I worked so she worked really hard to explain it to them. After the method of my use spread, she placed a board explaining how I worked, so the citizens who saw it tentatively tried using me. It's kind of nostalgic now that I think about it.

"Hoh, what a convenient thing. While exploring and fighting we can easily get food and drink. The downside is that it's kinda big, but if someone like you is hired then there must be a high income." (Cowboy)

"It's good that you're praising me, but I just saw a hint of darkness in your gaze. That look reminds me of the people who tried to steal me but failed. I should be cautious around this guy.

“Ah, just now you were thinking of taking Hakkon, right? You can’t do that, he’s my best friend.” (Ramis)

Ramis is really sharp, so maybe she does have an ability or talent for reading other people. But with her kind nature, she doesn’t abuse it.

“Uoh, you get me. It’s Hakkon, right? If he was with me it’d be really convenient. Oh well, to commemorate our meeting here I guess I’ll buy something. I don’t need water right now... I think I’ll take the one with a drawing of Romawa.”

[TL: Romawa is not Japanese, it’s a random name given by the author for a lemon in the other world]

“That’s a cold one. I think it’s better to choose the red one which is warmer.” (Ramis)

“Oh, is that so. Thanks.” (Cowboy)

The man chose lemon tea. He’s a bit shady but he’s still a customer nonetheless. I have to provide him with the item.

I thank him by saying

–“Thank you. Please come again.”

After he got his drink.

“Hee, he really does talk. Amazing. I’ve never seen a container like this. Just how does it work?” (Cowboy)

“Unnto ne, I don’t really know myself. Ah, once you finish drinking the container disappears, so you don’t have to worry about trash.” (Ramis)

“Seriously? Then, how about the taste... kuhaaa, delicious. It’s warm too, amazing. If we put this in an urban area then we could earn a hell of a lot of money. How does it restock itself?” (Cowboy)

This guy’s questions are really on point. He might just be curious, but I think in his

mind he must be calculating the profits. It looks like he has a really good sense for making money.

“Soregane, I’ve never restocked Hakkon before. Till now he’s sold more than hundreds of items, isn’t it mysterious?” (Ramis)

“Hmm, this box is getting more and more interesting. Oi, Firumina, you were listening right? Come here for a bit.” (Cowboy)

“What is it Keryoil-taichou? Also, you’re too loud.” (?)

The person that responded to his call was a girl with a blue wavy perm. Her eyes looked a bit sharp, giving her a fierce look. She had a great face so I felt that it was a waste. She was wearing a blue robe and holding a wand made of wood. She definitely looks like a magician. And one that uses water.

“You’re knowledgeable about ancient treasures aren’t you. Don’t you know anything about this ‘Hakkon’?” (Kerloru)

“I’ve been trying to see through him, but I don’t feel any magic. It’s like it’s just a piece of iron.

Well, it’s because I’m a vending machine.

“But, items are coming out without a need for any restocks so he must be utilizing some sort of other dimension to store them.” (Keryoil)

“Normally that’s the case, but if he has a [Divine Gift] then it won’t emit mana. Well, it doesn’t matter, a piece of piece of iron wouldn’t be able to use a [Divine Gift] in the first place.

Ah, unn, I actually can though... I guess it was true that a vending machine that could use a [Divine Gift] was weird. I should refrain from using [Barrier] for a while and only use it during emergencies.

“He must be an abnormal existence then. I don’t really get it, but thank you for

cooperating with us. Also, it was nice meeting you Hakkon.” (Keryoil)

–”Thank you.”

He still feels shady and stuff, but I have to thank him for buying an item earlier. I should keep an eye on Ramis since she seems like she could be easily tricked.

CHAPTER 9

SUBJUGATION UNIT

The nest/settlement of [Frog-men] was 1 hour to the south of the lakeshore I was in.

So that's why so many [Frog-men] came to investigate. If I made a mistake choosing my [Divine Gift] I would've been scrap. Good thing I didn't choose a fighting-type [Divine Gift] . Even if I did, I wouldn't be able to use it with this vending machine body.

–“Welcome.”

–“Thank you.”

–“Please come again.”

I don't even have time to think since the business here is a great success. I've been saying thank you non-stop.

During lunch, [Hunters] brought their own rations, or used the ingredients from the Transportation squadron, but thanks to Ramis, many people began to gather towards me and buy stuff.

“This pasta dish is so delicious!” (Hunter)

Yup, for this trip I bought a new function for 1000 points. Lately, it's been really cold from morning to night, so I bought a water boiling function and stocked up on 4 different kinds of cup ramen. Kitsune udon, soy sauce ramen, pork ramen, and salt ramen. This way, they can find something they like.

Of course this is another world, so no one knows how ramen works. Therefore, I chose brands that only required adding boiling water. Also, this item has a picture on the lid explaining how to make it, so Ramis and Munina understood quickly.

“When I transform into cup ramen mode, half of the display will be used for the function, and the number of places where I can put drinks decreases so that's one negative aspect. But, I can transform back and forth freely if any customer wants

drinks or other products.

Today was especially cold, and when they saw Ramis eating ramen with delight, more people started to buy from me. Currently I'm having a great sale. I set the price of ramen to 2 silver. I also provided forks with the cup ramen.

"Kuhaa, my whole body is getting warmed up." (Nameless Hunter)

"This big brownish one has a really strong flavour and it taste's so good!" (Insignificant Hunter)

"Your's looks good, let me trade a bite." (even more insignificant Hunter)

The [Hunters] are eating while commenting on their food. Before I knew it, 40 cup ramens and tons of drinks were sold. As expected from a job requiring a lot of energy, many of them ate more than 2.

It takes 2 days to reach the enemy's camp, and they packed more than enough food but [Hunters] usually don't want complex food and prefer easy and quick food. This is one of the reasons I was able to have such a great sale.

Of course I must also give thanks to the developers of cup ramen. When I see these high quality foods I feel really grateful for being born in Japan.

If it keeps up like this for the rest of the expedition, I'm going to earn heaps of money. I was thinking of pricing the cup ramen at 3 silver but I didn't want to demoralize them, and subjugating the [Frog-men] is more important. So as to motivate them and cheer them on I decided to keep the price a little low.

We are all the way at the back, so we've never had to fight, but sometimes I can hear the battle between the [Hunters] and the [Frog-men] . Overall, it's been peaceful.

While we're on the move no one buys anything, so I take the opportunity to look the functions again and develop a strategy to earn more.

Here is my status right now:

[Vending Machine] Hakkon

Endurance: 100/100

Defence: 10

Strength: 0

Agility: 0

Dexterity: 0

Mana: 0

PT 3600

Mineral Water (Cold) 1000¥ /1 silver (130)

Milk-Tea (Cold) (Warm) 1000¥ /1 silver (124)

Lemon-Tea (Cold) (Warm) 1000¥ /1 silver (65)

Sports Drink (Cold) 1000¥ /1 silver (78)

Orange Juice(Cold) 1000¥ /1 silver (65)

Oden Can(Warm) 3000¥ / 3 silver (56)

Corn Soup (Warm) 1000¥ / 1 silver (119)

Potato Snack (Room Temperature) 1000¥ / 1 silver (136)

Cup Ramen: Kitsune Udon (Room Temperature)2000¥ / 2 silver (85)

Cup Ramen: Pork Ramen (Room Temperature) 2000¥ / 2 silver (92)

Cup Ramen: Soy Sauce Ramen (Room Temperature)2000¥ / 2 silver (88)

Cup Ramen: Salty Ramen (Room Temperature) 2000¥ / 2 silver (89)

<Functions> [Refrigeration] [Heat Insulation]

[Boil Water (Cup Ramen Mode)]

<Divine Gifts> [Barrier]

The amount of words being displayed is way too much. [ED: this] I should check and see if I can display specific categories only. While I'm in the subjugation unit I should be prepared switch to cup ramen mode at any moment, and for drinks I will place one of each in the display.

But, it really seems like magic when I change modes with the function. Maybe there's a function to change color, design, or even form... yup, there was~!

Houhou, I can change my color to anything I want. I can even add new designs and customize the buttons- oh! I can even add an electronic screen. It really has a large amount of options.

Changing colors doesn't cost many points, but changing shape or adding an electronic screen costs quite a bit. When I have points to spare I might buy one. While looking through the list of functions to buy, time passed really quickly and it was already night.

"We're going to camp out here tonight, prepare for the night watch!" (Guildmaster)

This suave voice, it can't be anyone else but the guildmaster. I had forgotten he also joined the subjugation unit. From what I heard he used to be a really strong [Hunter], and he's a rank higher compared to the other [Hunters] here.

There's a group of [Hunters] setting up camp, but most of them are sitting around the fireplace. I guess those people will sleep in sleeping bags. I was curious as to what Ramis was going to do, so I turned my gaze towards her, and she was smiling happily beside me.

She looks really unprepared but she's still a former [Hunter] so she should have something right? Now that I think about it, she didn't bring anything since she was carrying me. Is she really going to be alright?

Even though I'm worried she seems carefree and is right now just trying to decide what she's going to buy. Other people are eating slightly luxurious food since tomorrow is the day of the battle.

Most of them bought their favorite drinks but they didn't buy the cup ramen or any of the food products. I guess they don't want to eat too much so that it is easier to move.

"I like the one with the skewers, but I wish there was a skewer for this egg only."
(Ramis)

Ramis likes eggs, huh. Eggs are really expensive so if I changed it to all eggs the costs would go up.

Tonight, Ramis's dinner is kitsune udon, an oden can, and milk-tea. I don't know if it's really nutritious or just plain bad.

"Are you free right now?" (Guildmaster)

I saw a huge figure behind Ramis, it must be the guildmaster. I didn't notice his presence even though he's so close. I guess they weren't lying when they said he was a really strong [Hunter] .

"Is the guildmaster also going to buy something?" (Ramis)

"I guess. I might buy the yellow sup later on. But, I'm here to talk about tomorrow. The enemy's nest is around 3 hours from here. This place is hidden by many trees and bushes, so it will be safe to stay here." (Guildmaster)

"I want you guys to choose whether you are coming or not. If you are staying here some stray [Frog-men] might come and attack. I will be sure to keep the guards with you guys, but we can't guarantee you safety." (Guildmaster)

If we go with them we are sure to be caught up in the battle, but there will be 30 veteran [Hunters] , and I heard their chance of losing is zero. Truth be told I don't know how dangerous [Frog-men] are so I don't know which choice is correct.

This is a tough one. I'm not sure how to answer. I don't feel pain, and I can take 2-3 hits without a problem. Even if I get damaged I can just fix myself with points.

I don't really mind so it depends on Ramis. She looks like she's really eager to battle. I guess there's only one choice then.

–"Too bad." [No]

"Eh, you want to fight?" (Ramis)

–"Welcome." [Yes]

“Un, I understand. Guildmaster, we are going to fight!” (Ramis)

I will protect her at all costs. I may not have arms or legs, but I have [Barrier] , so I can at least protect. My first customer and friend in this world. I wouldn't mind spending tons of points to protect her. For this purpose I must sell items and earn more and more points.

Come, [Hunters] ! Get addicted to my products!

CHAPTER 10

ATTACK

The sun was rising so the [Hunters] started their activities. In the end Ramis slept while leaning on me. It seems my [Heat Insulation] function affected even my surroundings so Ramis didn't need a blanket and slept soundly.

Last night was really cold so the sale of hot drinks was astronomical. In just one day I was able to earn 1000 points, it was unexpected in a good way.

Even this morning customers seeking warmth are lined up in front of me. It's a good thing I stocked up on cup ramen and corn soup last night.

If the [Frog-men] have anything in common with normal frogs, then the [Hunters] could just wait until they entered hibernation. But, there's still the possibility that they look like frogs but aren't actually like them. Well, even if my prediction was right there's now way for me to tell them.

"Everyone, listen up. After eating breakfast we are going to attack the enemy headquarters. Execute the plan I gave you earlier. With our group's strength it will probably be a decisive victory. However, don't ever underestimate them. That is all."
(Guildmaster)

His voice is really persuasive and gives us a sense of security. If this person said it's going to be ok, then I feel it'll be ok.

I was carried off by Ramis as usual, and we departed for battle. Me and my comrade are on our way to exterminate monsters... When I say that it feels like one of those "another world" fantasy novels! But, I'm a vending machine, so it's not like I can do anything... To be of any use it would be good to get other [Divine Gifts], but each of them costs more than a million points.

Ahh, the sky is really blue— But I'm a man and yet I can only be carried around by a cute girl, haaa, when I think about it it makes me really depressed.

It seems we're getting really close to where the [Frog-men] live, I can feel the atmosphere change. Even though I have a machine body, right!

I can feel the water from condensation sticking to me. This place is really humid. I'm starting to worry if this body can rust...

The ground here is mud so it looks really difficult to move. The mud is going halfway up the leg for Ramis since I'm heavy. Is she going to be ok?

"GuGeGuGaGuEh!" [Frog-men]

"Destroy them!!" (Hunter)

The cries of the [Frog-men] can be heard ringing out, along with the heroic shouts of the humans. The [Hunters] in the front line already started to fight. The footing is really bad for the [Hunters], but I guess they already took it into account.

Even with this they calculated that they were going to win, so what's the point of an amateur like me worrying. I can only pray for the safety of the customers. I can hear the footsteps of something running towards me. The escorts guarding the supply cart all switched their faces to serious ones.

"Hakkon. It seems the enemy has come. Let's work hard together." (Ramis)

She even said "work hard together" even though she knows I can't do anything. If I don't listen to her heartfelt request then I am not a man. Well, I'm not sure if vending machines even have genders, though.

It seems she doesn't intend to drop me down and instead fight like that. I'm worried my weight will hinder her movements but I need to answer her resolution.

—"Welcome." [Yes]

I said it at the lowest possible volume. Ramis, you worry about the front and I will watch our backs. I will block any attacks coming from there.

Then, the enemies arrived. Quite a number of [Frog-men] appeared. While I am being carried my body will be to the side Ramis so I can only judge what's going on by sound. Otto, it came from the front so even I can look.

"The number of monsters you kill will be added to the reward. All of you, put more effort into it! Exterminate them all!" (Keryoil)

"Let's do this!!!!" (Hunters)

Following the order from their leader, they all started attacking the [Frog-men] coming from the front with bows, throwing knives, and axes. Ohh, these people are quite strong. Every attack they launch is killing [Frog-men] . They already killed more than half.

[Water...水水水水水水水水水 Penetrate through them...]

Oh, that is the woman that Keryoil called out, she wore really magician like clothing. When she raised her wand, water flowed out like a hose and flew through the air, hitting many [Frog-men] at once. So, that is magic. If I get the similar [Divine Gift] then maybe I can control water like that. If that's the case then I can be a fighting vending machine... it's not a bad future. But my mana is still zero. Ah, it's not possible.

I can think carefreely like this because the battle is already in our favour and we're winning by a large margin. While Ramis is fighting my vision is shaky so I can't really see the front. It's really inconvenient now that I can't see the back either.

Ara? Now that I think about it Ramis has never carried a weapon. She was wearing a slightly large glove, is that what it's for?

"Yoshi, I was able to defeat them. It's all thanks to Hakkon being on my back. He lessened my movements so all my attacks hit and I won easily." (Ramis)

I can hear Ramis's cheerful voice. I saw one of the dead bodies of the enemy. It's face is all caved in, it looks like it was hit by a sledgehammer. This must be what's left after being hit by [Super Strength] . I-I see. If I think about it calmly then this much

destruction is expected.

“It’s unnatural for there to be so many enemies here. When I think that there are even more on the frontline... it smells like danger.” (Keryoil)

I heard the leader mumbling something scary. So, this situation is not normal.

“Everyone gather here. If we move separately we might get surrounded.” (Keryoil)

“Understood, leader!” (Hunters)

The leader’s judgement turned out to be right, and the [Frog-men] surrounded us. With just one look I can already see more than 30. Each person needs to deal with 5 of them. Isn’t this dangerous?

“Leader, isn’t this a bit too much?” (Firumina)

“Complain later. If we must we can abandon the supply cart. Our party’s motto is keeping lives safe.” (Keryoil)

“This is the first time I;m hearing that” (Firumina)

The leader and that blue-haired Firumina are talking about stupid things but their expressions are grim. The situation is that bad. I want Ramis to run if it gets dangerous. I don’t mind her abandoning me if I’m a hindrance. She is standing in front of the [Hunter] holding a bow, her job is to fight one the frontline.

“I will deal with any missed enemy.” (Ramis)

“Thanks, that would help me alot” (Hunter)

I didn’t notice before since she was wearing a hood but she must be a female [Hunter]. Ara, when I think about it this group has a lot of females. Everyone was calling Keryoil leader, so everyone here is under him. 4 out of 6 people are female... Isn’t this a harem party? I will make sure to call Keryoil a perverted ass from now on.

While I was thinking about stupid things the battle was becoming more intense. The perverted ass isn't called leader for show, as he cut down the [Frog-men] one after the other with his swords. The other members are also really strong and are overwhelming the frogs with their strength. The problem is the archer Ramis is protecting. She is also strong, but she seems bad at consecutive shots and allowed the enemy to get close many times.

The moment they close in Ramis deals with them and is barely staying alive. Ramis can fight one on one but when it's a 2 on 1 she can't finish it quickly. The frog saw the opening and is trying to hit me with his axe.

I know I won't take that much damage so I just let him attack without activating [Barrier] .

<<4 Damage, Endurance decreased by 4>>

My body shook for a moment and words popped up. It's been a while since I've seen them. I have enough points now so I let myself get hit around 10 times.

"Eh, they went around the back!? I- I'm sorry Hakkon! Are you ok?" (Ramis)

She's panicking really badly. It's ok, there's no need for you to worry so much. I'm happy I can take the damage instead of you.

–"Welcome." [Yes]

"I'm really sorry!" (Ramis)

No worries, you should just focus on your enemy. I want to say it but I can't. I can't see what's happening, but I felt Ramis's movement getting disturbed. I can even sense her agitation. This is bad.

"Kyah!" (Ramis)

She dodged one of the attacks and fell on her side, now I could see the battle. The [Frog-man] is attacking her with a spear since she had an opening.

“Noooooooo!” (Ramis)

The spear was about to hit Ramis! I should activate my [Barrier] . [Barrier] , activate! The light spread through the surroundings and the spear was knocked back. In addition, the [Frog-man] was blasted backwards.

現在，
起動「結界」！

荷伊

阿福

蛙人魔

拉蜜絲



“Eh, this, this light.... Is it your power?” (Ramis)

“No, it shouldn’t be him” (?)

Aah, I want to increase my area of vision. Isn’t there any function like this. We’re in a situation like this but I still looked for the function since it’s inconvenient not being able to look at my back. Oh, found it.

<Omni-directional Sight>

1000 points huh, it’s not cheap but, it’s better than dying because I didn’t take it. I bought it without hesitation.

Oohhh, I can see everything... I might get dizzy. I can see in all directions now, and it feels really good but it might take some time before I get used to it.

“If you didn’t do it then who created that light wall?” (Ramis)

–“If you win, you get another one for free.”

I tried to appeal that I did. It’s not like I’m showing off, but It might hinder her movement if she didn’t know.

“Eh, Hakkon, you were the one who did it!?” (Ramis)

–“Welcome.” [Yes]

“Uwaa, thank you so much Hakkon!” (Ramis)

This is one of her good parts, she just trusts me like that. Normal people wouldn’t believe it if a box said it had this kind of power.

Then, if it gets dangerous, can you protect me?” (Ramis)

–“Welcome.” [Yes]

I said it with loud volume. Now she knows that she will be safe. Let's destroy the frogs together. The real battle starts now!

CHAPTER 11

ONE VENDING MACHINE AND ONE HUMAN

“Hakkon, if the enemy approaches from the back, make sure to tell me, ok?” (Ramis)

–“Welcome.” [Yes]

–“If you win, you get another one for free.” [The enemy is here]

“When you say, ‘if you win’, then should I interpret that as the enemy has come, right?”
(Ramis)

–“Welcome.” [Yes]

It feels easy to communicate my will with Ramis. Her senses are really sharp, so we don’t need to say anything to understand each other’s intentions... I think?

But, is it true that Ramis is a weak [Hunter] ? Now that I’m able to observe her movements, I’ve been paying attention to her fight. She is trying to avoid hitting me with her elbow, and she’s only done it once. Her footwork is not that quick but when she’s dodging attacks she only uses the minimum amount of movement needed, and only needs to move a short distance.

Even though we’re in a really tight space and her movements are limited, she’s never accidentally hit me. Even though it’s an amateur’s observation, I can tell that her movements are not simple.

“Ahh, this movement. Yes, this movement! It feels just like those days of being forced to carry rocks by master, those hellish trials.” (Ramis)

Master? Is it possible Ramis actually had harsh training with her master and is well trained but hasn’t been able to utilize it until now? Maybe by carrying me she was reminded of her past training and is able to move like she’s supposed to.

Even if I’m wrong, I’m glad that Ramis isn’t in any danger. But what kind of setting is

this, carrying a vending machine and then becoming stronger... If it was normal then she would drop me and suddenly get a power up.

“Oh, you are really good! That destructive power and movement, truly amazing.” (?)

“Iyaa, you are embarrassing me with your praise.” (Ramis)

Don’t get distracted now, concentrate on the battle. I know you’re not used to praise, but we’re in the middle of a battle. Stop looking like an idiot! Focus on the battle, just watching you is making me nervous! Look, the enemy is already nearing us.

–“If you win, you get another one for free.” [The enemy is here]

“Mou, even you Hakkon, don’t praise me so much.” (Ramis)

What the hell was I saying about connecting our will? You already forgot our talk from before... aaah, mou, [Barrier] , activate!

I stopped the approaching [Frog-men] before they reached her body. That was dangerous... so close.

“What is this blue light? It not only stops the enemies attack, it also chooses who is allowed to enter or exit. I’ve never seen or heard about this before... is this your [Divine Gift] ?” (?)

So [Divine Gifts] are rare, ha? The perverted leader is wailing at you. Even though you’re in battle you look really carefree. Ah, he slashed the frog that jumped on him. Perverted leader is not someone to be underestimated.

“No, this is Hakkon’s power.” (Ramis)

Ah, Ramis... I wanted to keep it a secret from this person. Haa, there’s no point in telling you know though. Her trust in everyone is part of her pure personality. That smile on the perverted leader. It’s telling me he’s planning something bad. He really might try and steal me at this rate. This guy, I rank him as the most dangerous.

“I should befriend Hakkon more from now on.” (perverted ass)

“Un, un, please get along well with him” (Ramis)

If there weren't dead [Frog-men] everywhere then it would look like an everyday comedic discussion. Also, who wants to be friends with you, you perverted leader?

“We're done cleaning up here. You guys cut off their tongues. We are going to submit them to the Guild.” (perverted leader)

“Leader, you do it. They're too sticky and disgusting.”

“Fuh, I don't do boring and tiring stuff like this since I'm the leader.” (perverted leader)

“Dictator—”

“Lolicon—”

“I'm not getting paid enough for this—”

“You guys sure got some guts, ha?!” (perverted leader)

They are unexpectedly acting like they're at home. It may look like they are fighting but they're actually flirting with each other. This perverted leader, he might look shady but it seems like he might actually be a pretty good guy.

Iya, maybe he's one of those people who's liked by his teammates but an asshole to others. I shouldn't lower my guard.

“Ramis, what should we do next? Of course, we can also stay here.” (perverted leader)

“Eeto, I want to go help them since they might be in danger, so let's go! Hakkon, you are also ok with it right?” (Ramis)

I knew Ramis would say that. Of course, I have no objections.

—“Welcome” [Yes]

Since the enemy managed to reach here, it means the frontline must be having a tough time. I don't have any intentions to stop us from joining them, but I should be prepared to activate [Barrier] anytime.

When we arrived at the frontline, we saw a muddy battle in progress. Perverted leader's party went and started attacking the frogs. The [Hunters] were being pushed back so when they saw the reinforcements they started cheering.

But, the difference in numbers was still far too much. The information we got said there would be 50 but there are at least 100. And if we count the dead bodies then there were around 200.

"You've really helped us Keryoil-kun. As expected from the Fool's Eccentric party."
(Guildmaster)

The bear guildmaster is walking towards us. With his nails dyed red in blood, his presence increased even more. I guess he fights without weapons. No, you could say that his fist's... his nails' sharpness could be compared to a katana. But really, what a weird name for a party.

"There were no more jobs for us so we came even though we weren't needed."
(perverted leader)

"I thank you for your help. There were far too many enemies. Thanks to you we were able to exterminate them. But I wonder if other settlements gathered here. This was far too off the predictions for this to be a single settlement.." (Guildmaster)

"Not only that, but they seemed to be really aggressive. Usually, [Frog-men] will retreat before getting exterminated." (Guildmaster)

True, when I was attacked by [Frog-men] , they knew their attacks couldn't get through and gave up. I can say that this organism isn't so reckless as to fight till death.

"Fumu, then there can only be one thing..."

"It might be that..."

"Maa, it will be that"

3 of them are looking really tense. The way they said it, it seems like it's something really bad.. They should just go out and say it. I can't even ask you guys.

"Nee, what is 'that'?" (Ramis)

Nice Ramis!

"A, sumanu. This is just an assumption but there is a high chance a [King Frog-man] appeared."

[ED: sumanu means sorry.]

Oh, a [King Frog-man] ... What's that? It sounds strong just from the name, it feels like something dangerous is coming.

CHAPTER 12

ARGUMENT

The injured people were resting in the supply cart. Some number of men were left behind to guard the. Bringing only the strong and veteran Hunters, they headed for the settlement where there might be a King Frog-man— It was decided that we were going to attack it.

If this was a normal novel, then the protagonist, me, would be in the subjugation unit, but as a vending machine Ramis and I stayed behind. Well, our mission was to supply food to begin with, so this much is expected.

The Fool's Eccentric party, led by Keryoil (what poor naming sense), joined the King Frog-man hunt. Also, there are supposedly only a small number of Frog-men protecting the King, so we can just relax here. In other words, it's selling time! We were near the supply cart, so let's earn a bit of points.

–“Welcome.”

“There are hot meals and drinks— drinks are only 1 silver!”

Ramis reacted to my call by helping out. It seems it was the right time to take a rest, and cup ramen, tea, and sports drinks sold the most. At first many people didn't like the weird taste of the sports drinks, but the rumour that drinking it would relieve your fatigue prompted many Hunters to buy it. As a matter of fact the sports drink with the blue and white logo was originally developed as a medicine. I remember that in the past it helped when I was having a cold or diarrhea. It's the perfect drink for a situation like this where everyone is tired.

“Ha, when I can eat warm food without needing to make a fire, I can't get enough.”

“We don't even have to clean, it makes me really happy.”

“Aah, I want one on my team.”

A vending machine's ability is really useful for Hunters, so they are looking at me

enviously. It's already troublesome enough with the perverted leader, and now I have to look out for the other Hunters too.

Ramis is smiling happily since other people are complimenting me. She doesn't understand the meaning of their gaze... if this keeps up...

"Sorry, but can someone help out with the injured ones?"

"Ah, I will help! Hakkon, I'm going to leave you alone but don't cry just because you got lonely, ok?"

— "Please come again."

"Whats with that? Then, I'm going."

I responded to her teasing with a quick retort, so she acted a little angry by pouting, then left. If I was in my real body it might have looked like an interaction between a couple, but I'm just a machine...

"Utto, that gullible one went away. Now's the time."

A short man with a tooth protruding was looking and suspiciously and walked towards me. I know it's the worst judging people by their looks, but I have to say it. He looks way too shady.

What else can I say? He looks like some small-fry. I want to give him the title of "little criminal". He's getting closer while humming, his eyes seems to be licking me all over. When I see his gaze, I notice he's looking at the place where you insert your money.

"Hmm, what should I buy?"

The small-fry looking Hunter said that in a really loud idiotic voice, and he tries to insert a silver pick in the place for coins. Aa, this guy, he wants to rob my money. Then, I should take the appropriate response for this.

— "WELCOME!!!"

I said it at my loudest volume.

“Uei!!??”

Oh, he was surprised enough to jump. My voice and his attracted the attention of others. Now, what will you do in this situation?

“He-hee, he really can talk. It really is amazing.”

Oh? Acting like you’re admiring me, your expression looks really forced. If you drop the act and buy something I’ll let you go, but you don’t seem like an honest human.

“You, if you really understand my voice then give me the money... unless you want to be destroyed, understand?”

He said it in a low voice. Oh, this asshole just started kicking me. Hou hou, don’t underestimate vending machines just because we don’t have limbs.

I will show you the power of a vending machine!! I dropped a mineral water down, and the man’s look became visibly happier. The moment he pushed his hand through the flap, I dropped another product.

“Again, that sound.... HOOOOOOOOOOOOT! Hot, hot gyaa!”

Fuhahahaha, corn soup which I heated to it’s maximum capacity. However, I’m not done yet.

–“If you win, you get another one for free.”

I dropped more continuously so that he couldn’t take away his hands. This is the price you pay for hurting my beautiful body and trying to steal my money. I will never forgive you. Continue to suffer from the heat, muahahahaha.

“Sh-shit! A mere box dares to underestimate me?! I will destroy you!”

He took out a sword with his other hand and brandished it at me. I can block it with 『Barrier』 but even if I just took the hit the damage will be little. I will let you hit me as proof of your deed. I had decided that, but before the sword reached me it suddenly stopped.

“What are you trying to do to Hakkon....”

This is Ramis’s scary voice. She must’ve rushed over once she heard the crowd. This girl can really get scary. The man is frozen looking at Ramis. Her face was that scary. The more you see her adorable face during the day, the more her terrifying her change is.

“No, it’s not what it looks like! I just tried to take the goods, but too many products dropped and I couldn’t take my hands out!”

“Didn’t you do something bad before?”

Nice Ramis. I might fall in love with her ability to read the mood with her sharp instinct.

“I didn’t do shit! This guy did it by itself!”

“Hakkon, did he really do nothing bad?”

–“Too bad.” [No]

“You see, Hakkon says you’re guilty.”

“What are you saying. Are you going to trust a box rather than me, you should know—
_”

“Of course I believe in Hakkon more.”

She answered instantly. That’s how strong her trust in me is. I’m so happy that I’ll hug her if I ever grow hands. Also, I need to give more presents to this jackass. The soups got a bit colder but I’ll crush him with the weight.

“Ouchhhhhhhhh! This box asshole, stop!”

“Now that I think about it, aren’t you that Gugoiru guy I’m supposed to be careful of, you must be that guy the guildmaster warned me about.”

[ED: Gugoiru is his name.]

“Heh, n-no. Of course not!”

Uwaa, he sucks at acting. He is sweating profusely and looking away. You are practically admitting it with your act.

“Ramis-chan. That guy is Gugoiru, he’s famous for doing shady stuff.”

An old man who showed his head from a cart told us. Ah, this person, he was the guy who taught his subordinates how to use me. I should take note that he’s a good person.

“Fuuuun, then I guess I don’t have to hold back.”

She is made a poki poki sound with her arm and smiled. Somehow, it was really scary. In the end he was tied up by a rope and beaten to a pulp, then he was sent to the cart.

“Th-this is bad! Oi, everyone retreat! The huge one is coming this way!”

I saw a huge frog surrounded by fire hopping our way.

CHAPTER 13

KING FROGMAN

“Oi oi! Why is the King Frog-man coming this way! What the heck are the guys over there doing?”

I ignored the Hunters who were shouting angrily, and instead observed the giant frog. In the distance I can see Hunters chasing it. The Frog-man seems to have a height of 3 meters. [ED: 10 ft] It might even be as tall as the second floor of the mansion.

It differs from a normal Frog-man. It doesn't have arms or legs, and is instead shaped like a normal frog. However, it's wearing a brownish armour, so it's definitely not a simple frog. Ma, how does that flame aura work? I thought one of the Hunters had lit it on fire, but the frog looks fine... is the flame the result of it's power?

“Shit, isn't it in it's rage state? We can't get near it!”

Ah, so the fire is in fact its own doing. It's most likely a 『Divine Gift』 or something, anything is possible for those things, just like my 『Barrier』. Everytime he hops, I can feel my body shake. Even if he's 3 meters tall, he's still is surprisingly heavy.

I'm making observations calmly to myself but... isn't this actually dangerous?

“Retreat!” Everyone retreat!”

“Ruuuuuuun! Leave the bags!”

I need to do something to surprise it and something to hinder it. If I buy some time the Hunters in the back line will be able to do something about it. Something, anything to buy time, is there anything I can do?

I frantically look through my products but the wounded people's screams are getting louder. AAh, shit, anything! There has to be something useful among the products I bought. Wait, ah, if I use this and do that I can at least buy some time!

How many points do I have? It's over 6000, it's enough! First, I buy the function for selling 2 litre bottles with 1000 points. Then I buy the new product. I changed all the items in the display to the 2 litre cola bottles. There also one's you don't see much these days, diet colas. Other items are not needed right now. Also, so that Ramis will notice, I dropped one.

"Uah, what was that sound?! Did it reach us?"

"No, Ramis-chan. Hakkon's body changed a little then something dropped by itself."

Nice assist bearded man. Now notice me, Ramis.

"Wh-what does it mean, dropping a product in this situation? Hakkon, does it perhaps have some meaning to it?"

–"Welcome." [Yes]

"You must have some plan then. I believe in you!"

She put me on the ground and took the cola out.

"Eh, these bubbles are making pupuku sounds... that weird juice?"

She seems to remember the time we first met and I gave her a cola. I continue dropping them while Ramis takes them to the supply cart. Now that I think about it, I don't feel the ground shaking anymore. Did something happen? I looked over towards the King Frog-man and saw some Hunters were able to reach it. They were trying to engage it while dodging the fire.

If it continues like this then that frog will reach us in no time. That's why I need to do something to change the situation. And so, I bought another function, 『Form Change』 !

My body became surrounded in light and started changing form. From a rectangle to something more like a circle. My lower body became colorful, and circle patterns were

visible all over. The upper body had transparent glass with newly bought candy in every display slot. This is the Mentos vending machine. *[ED: It's a censored Mentos vending machine.]*

“Eh? EH?! Hakkon became round?!”

I dropped the candies for free.

“Eh, I should take it right?”

–“Welcome.” [Yes]

Ramis picks up the candy which is overflowing the outlet. Till this point it's been fine but now the problem is finding a way to get her to understand. How can I communicate? I should just do what I can.

–“the balance by inserting-”

–“pay the balance by inserting-”

–“by inserting coi-.”

“Eh, even though you dispensed that many products, I should still insert money?”

–“Too bad.” [No]

–“Please pay the balance by inserting coins.”

–“Please pay the balance by inserting-”

“Wh- what do you mean?”

Haa, I know this isn't enough information. But I can't do anything about it. I know it's reckless of me but please, somehow...

“Ramis-chan, maybe he broke.”

“No! Hakkon is trying his best to tell us something!”

I feel like crying right now. She has faith in me and is trying to understand me. Even if

she can't understand, I won't regret anything. She believed in me to this extent, this is enough, it's more than good enough for me.

"This carbonated drink. Candy. Insert coin. But, that's different... this drink was the one that blasted. Eeto, just like that time... but what is this candy for? It came out even though I didn't pay the money, but I should still insert the money? No...

Just little more, a little more. Notice it, please.

"I don't give a shit about that! Take off the rope you asshole! I won't ever reflect on my actions!"

That little criminal we tied up with rope. I completely forgot about him.

"Shut up, you're noisy! Put something in his mouth to make him shut up."

"Oh, ou. Then I will put this in."

Ah, he got shouted at by the bearded old man, he forced the candy in his mouth.

"Whafafuack! Peh, you dare push in that paper stick. It's stuck in my mouth, are? What is this, it's so goood! Ah, it's making me thirsty. Someone, water, give me water!"

Tch, enjoying the taste in a situation like this.

"Daaa, shut up. Just let him drink this!"

That old man threw the cola at him, and then he poured the drink into the little criminal's mouth.

Ah.

"BURFARUFAAAA!"

A splendid water fountain rose out of the little criminal's mouth. Ramis, who say this-understood everything.

“I see. I should insert the candy and not the money... am I right?”

–“Welcome.” [Yes]

Once she understood what she needed to do, she gave the cola and the Mentos to everyone and briefly explained it to them. Now, let's blow that fat frog!

CHAPTER 14

FIRST MISFORTUNE, GONE

The fighting was getting more dangerous by the second. The Hunters who were engaged in battle noticed us, but before they could say anything, the King Frog-man dashed over to us. There was no way out, so we might as well try it.

“Everyone, get ready!”

“Ou!”

Everyone lined up in a straight horizontal line, and dropped the candy in the cola. In the next moment, the bubbles from the bottle blasted–

“Aim at the eyes!”

The liquid blasted into the King Frog-man’s eyes. It looks annoyed and is trying to attack, but the intensity of the fire dropped. Seeing this as an opening, the Hunters began to attack ferociously while our cola splashed its eyes.



“GuGeGuGeGoooooooo!”

Ah, he’s blinking really hard. When cola gets in your eyes it really hurts. I know how you feel. The Hunters started attacking more earnestly when they saw the opening. Now that we pestered him really badly, we leave the rest to you guys. We are retreating!

“Let’s escape!”

I said good bye as we got further away from the King, Ramis is dodging while pulling the supply cart.

— “Please come again.”

The moment it was blinded, the King Frog-man was defeated, but now that I think about it, wouldn’t have been easier if we just used Ramis’s 『Super Strength』 to launch the cola, no, any drink at the Frog-man... Ah, but Ramis really sucks at throwing so the hit rate would be really low. And there was no way I could communicate that to her. There I listed all possible excuses. I mean, anyone would think of some weird idea during a panic. Though it was a job well done, there must have been a better way of doing it. Unn, I should reflect on it.



“It worked perfectly~, right Hakkon?”

“It’s all thanks to you Hakkon.”

I’m grateful for their compliments but I feel conflicted. If only I could dispense anything I wanted, then I could just have take out the gas [ED:Propane???] and let her throw it. It would create a blast, but I had a restriction based on whatever I bought on Earth. I’ve never seen a vending machine with gas as a product. I couldn’t think of any other options and there was only this sooo...

Another thing I should reflect on is... point usage. For the 2 litre and candy mode functions I used a total of 2000. On top of that, the cola and candy cost 40 points. So, overall I spent 2040 point. It’s a good thing it wasn’t any higher.

“Don’t be reckless. I felt shivers when I saw you guys”

“I’m sorry, Guildmaster”

Ramis is bowing and apologizing to the bear guildmaster who is approaching us. If I turned off the sound, then it would look like a girl pleading for a bear not to eat her.

“But really, I am thankful for your help. You guys were placed in danger because of our mistake, I’m sorry.”

“N-no! We are also sorry for being reckless.”

The bear and the lolly were both apologizing to each other and bowing. It was a funny but heartwarming sight. There were a lot of people who were injured, but no one was crippled, so the bear guildmaster was relieved.

“Everyone, thank you for your hard work. We will return home after a good rest. However, don’t get careless before we reach the settlement.

Bear Guildmaster’s words marked the conclusion of the battle.

After the battle there were no noteworthy events and by night everyone was too tired

to cook so my sales increased. Also, the cola is becoming famous thanks to a small group of people. The people who blasted the cola during the battle drank it as a reward for their help. And, I will be sealing the Mentos for now, since I would need to change form every time and I can't sell other things in that form.

After that, we camped out for another night and late in the afternoon we finally arrived at the settlement. We thought we could rest and were feeling relieved... but smoke could be seen rising from various points in the settlement. Oi oi oi!

Part of the wooden gate was destroyed. The gate might be broken but... where are the gate guards Karios and Golsu?! Please be safe.

"Wha-what is happening?! Sorry, everyone, but it looks like we'll need to work hard together again."

We left the Hunters who were too exhausted to fight behind, and more than half rushed into the settlement. I'm envious that they're able to move by themselves. I also want to rush in and search for the gateguards, the inn landlady, and Munani. I want to check on my regulars' safety.

But, I can't move by myself. I can't run or even walk.....

CHAPTER 15

DEFENCE

“Ev-everyone... Munani, Landlady...”

I snapped out of my thoughts when I heard Ramis’s voice, which sounded like she was about to cry. What am I doing feeling sad. Ramis has been together with them for a lot longer time than I have. I should be helping this person who called me friend.

-“ Le-Ts-Go...come by again”

“Eh, Hakkon?”

“Thank...Move...insert the coin”

I’ve been thinking, how can I communicate my thoughts? Though I can only say a limited amount of phrases, I thought that maybe if I combined them I might be able to have a conversation. I can say “Welcome.” ”Too bad.” “Thank you very much.” “Thank you.” “Please come again.” “If you win, you get another one for free.” “Unlucky.” “You won!” “Please pay the balance by inserting coins.”, only these.

Even though I can’t say any word I want, I figured I could overlap them in order to form the words that I want. I set up many sentences and practiced them in my free time. Now I am able to remove unwanted words by interrupting them with another sentence, as well as change the speed and which I speak.

At first I used *[TL: note the mc is creating sentences by overlapping each other like Welcome’s we with thank you.... And he is connecting the sentences using Japanese words and it doesn’t fit the english translation, so I couldn’t come up with the way to translate it]*

“True. If we don’t move then nothing is going to change! Let’s go Hakkon!”

“Let’s go-please insert the money”

[Japanese Romaji: Irashaimase= Welcome, Koukawotouniyuushitekudasai= Please insert the money, and he connected by I for irashaimase and Kou for koukotounyuushitekudasai, so it reads IKou meaning let's go.]

I suppressed my joy at the fact that I was able to communicate. If in the future, I become able to start my phrases from the middle then I should be able to speak an even larger amount of sentences. I should practice more. When we entered the settlement, I saw that most of the tents and buildings were completely destroyed. The settlement was clearly attacked by something. When I looked down at the floor I saw a huge gutter spread everywhere.

This- it looks as if a huge rope was tied... When I looked carefully at the other buildings, it looked like something crushed the buildings from the outside by pure force. Meaning, this must have been done by...

“Inn, what happened to the inn?!”

Ramis was running so fast that you wouldn't think she was carrying a vending machine. I understood her feelings, but the culprit might still be in the area. I couldn't think of a way to warn her. I should remember to prepare something I can say during a situation like this. I couldn't warn her, so I need to observe the surroundings for any trouble.

90 percent of the tents were destroyed. I feel like I didn't see anyone on the way to the inn. What could this mean? I hope it means that everyone evacuated.

“I-I found it! No, no way... This is horrible! Landlady! Munani!”

The scene that Ramis, who was shouting with a really miserable tone, was a half-destroyed inn. It was a shadow of the 2-story building that was here previously. The roof was blown over, and there was a large hole stretching from the first floor to the second.

The door was also shattered into pieces. The other parts are also so damaged that it's a miracle they hadn't fallen over yet. It looked as if any impact could crush the entire building. If this continued, then Ramis might jump into the inn. I should try and calm

her. Even though we're in a situation like this, I need to stay calm and think of something to say.

"Please answer me, please!"

Is she actually dashing in? Eeei, I should do something! I said the first thing that came to mind.

"Sorry Brain"

"That's mean, Hakkon!"

Ah, she's mad. But, thanks to that she was able to calm down. She breathed in and out repeatedly.

"Sorry, Hakkon. The building might break if I touched it, right? And since there was no response it means... Maybe they evacuated to somewhere!"

–"Welcome." [Yes]

Yes and No. For conversations like these, I can just use the usual phrases. It's a good thing that Ramis returned to her usual self. I skimmed my eyes over the building and saw no signs of blood. I may have a desire for that, but there is a high chance they are safe.

"Eeto, in a situation like this, the evacuation place is... ah, the Hunter's Guild! Yeah, it was the Hunter's Guild! At any rate, since the Hunter's jobs are really dangerous, they must have a sturdy building. And the guild master is Bear so the interior should be strong or else it wouldn't last long..."

"Then, let's go!"

"Let's go- please insert the coin"

Aah, it feels weird speaking like this. Oh well, I should be happy with this for now. The inn is near that gate that I've never been to, but the buildings around here look really

tough. More than half of them look like they were made for defence... before. Right now, it is a desolate place littered with destroyed buildings.

“If I make it beyond this destroyed place then there must be survivors, right?!”

“Welcome.” [Yes]

While I answered her, I saw the tracks of a huge snake. I associate Frog-men with snakes, since the sworn enemy of a frog is a snake.

“We’re nearing the Hunter’s Guild!”

When we got past the half-destroyed buildings, there was a fortress. Eh, what? An invincible fortress? It was made out of some unknown shining black material with a lustre to it. It looked really rough, and it had two floors. On the second floor there was a terrace, and on it, a varista was lined up.

Each and every window is blocked, preventing anyone from entering or exiting. The door looks like it is made of metal, and just looking at it gives off the feeling of weight. The building is about as big as a school, so they could shelter at least 100 people.

You see, I can analyze this calmly because of the scene before me. In front of what I’m assuming to be the Hunter’s Guild, is the corpse of a huge, fat, and long snake with brown scales and two heads. In it’s mouth, there was a set of vicious looking fangs and in it’s nose were narrow and long holes.

Around the dead body are the Hunters who came back from the subjugation, the Hunters who stayed behind, and two gate guards.

I see, Karios and Golsu were safe. Haaaaa, my energy is leaving me... not, my battery won’t ever die right. What’s still left to confirm is the safety of the citizens.

“Karios-san, Golsu-san! You two were safe!”

Ramis nears the huge snake and Karios.

“Ooh, it’s Ramis and Hakkon. It’s good that you guys weren’t hurt”

“Truly”

“Unn, I am fine”

–“Thank you.”

They worried not only about Ramis, but a vending machine like me. It’s hard to express my happiness right now, so in the near future I will stock some of their favorite products.

“A, you know, that, etto, two people....”

Ramis is asking while holding her hands in prayer.... The guards smiled back.

“Ou, don’t worry. The citizens are all safe. They’re in the church”

“I seee, that’s great news!”

Ramis fell down with now power left. Fuu, I feel like my battery is about to die. But really, I didn’t think there was such a majestic building in the settlement. It really is unexpected.

“Now that I think about it, Ramis has only been here for a short while and didn’t know this. People here evacuate as soon as as they hear the Magic Alarm. We also run the moment we think we can’t deal with the enemy.

“Cause there is a teleportation circle here.”

I see. With this much destruction, I thought it was impossible for everyone to survive, but there was a system like this in place. I guess it was to be expected for a settlement built in the dungeon. It seems like I underestimated this place.

CHAPTER 16

THE WORK OF REBUILDING

Greetings, I am a vending machine. My residence has changed from being in front of the inn to being in front of the Hunter's Association.

Munami and Okami-san energetically flew out since early this morning. That's right, because the inn that was turned into rubble was completely taken down, looks like they can start rebuilding.

It seems like the inn is vital to the community, so the rebuilding cost is coming from the Hunter Association; this time it looks like they're going to put up an even more extravagant inn; the laugh the two had at that time was a little frightening.

-tte, this atmosphere is really tiring, so stop.

Switching gears, I thought I'd pull my feelings together and join them, but I'm not going to do anything I'm not used to.

Yesterday I splurged too much so from today on I'll completely take in the profits. Because, since earlier I've already sold a ton of goods.

Since the early morning, former drunks who've become like the dead appeared shakily in front of me; one by one my products were sold. Yesterday, because most of the guys who bought my products for the first time because they were free came back, it's a situation where I can't stop grinning ... Just as planned -!

Shortly after Ramis woke up the Bear President called us, and we entered the Association. Today the operation of surveying the perimeters is finished, so they must be happy.

Since this morning cup ramen has been selling like crazy; there are people who have lost their cooking implements who came to buy it, but for the most part it's people got to caught up in the merry making yesterday and didn't feel like cooking.

Frankly speaking, since everyone was going to be troubled with money problems, I

was going to set the price of the cup ramen at a deficit, but it turns out that everyone had already prepared for the destruction of their houses, and most of the money was deposited within the Hunter Association's storage.

All the merchants are also expecting large amounts of carpenters and Hunters aiming for defense escort requests to come flooding in from today onwards, so they're busy preparing for business. They're overflowing with vitality, these residents are.

"Hakkon! We got a request directly from the President. Isn't it amazing?"

"Welcome."

It's quite the noteworthy promotion. But, the prediction of the contents is as expected.

"It's, guess what, a rubble removal quest dayo!"

Riiiiight~? Knowing about that super-strength, anyone would think of that kind of request.

With a strength comparable to construction machinery and even heavy machinery, it's a site where she can full-heartedly demonstrate it. Even if she breaks something due to over-excessive strength there's no problem; even if she has a limited amount of skill you can rest assured.

"I'd like to first level the spot where the inn was. They say they want to erect the new inn immediately."

If a lot of people overwhelmingly come flooding in, then the first would have to be the inn. Simple tents have been set up in large quantities in front of the Hunter's Association, but anyone would think of a proper inn for comfortably resting your body. -tte, in other words, I want to return to that "home".

While carrying me Ramis arrived in front of the former-inn; Okami-san and Munami-san have already begun removing the rubble. The two are both in the inn's uniform, but because of the labor looks like they're in trousers underneath the skirt. If that's the case I think it would be fine to just not wear the skirt, but it's probably these

women's pride.

"Munamiii, Okami-saaaaan. I've come to help-!"

"Rami, so you came. With this we got the super-human strength ne. Hakkon's with you too, morning-."

"Welcome."

I urgently want to be able to say "Good morning" and "Good evening". Since everyone's used to it, even though I give my normal greeting they accept it though.

"Eeto, the rubble is deposited on that tray over there; it looks like it's fine if you just take it to in front of the gate. 'Cause there are people there who came to separate it into burnables and non-burnables."

"A, ok. Then, after it's all piled up, I'll carry it. Hakkon will be here, so you can sell everyone drinks and stuff ne."

"Welcome."

Being placed in the usual place, I wonder why I feel so relieved.

O-, one after another people are coming over. From what I see there's a lot of young people in particular; I recognize the faces of some people as ones we accompanied during the subjugation. I wonder if the young Hunters are going around removing rubble.

"O, here's the spot. -tte, isn't the box with a will of its own here too? Alright, lucky."

"A-, you're right. We'll be able to get tasty food whenever we want!"

"The reconstruction work request has a good reward, so we'll use it well na."

I will gladly take this bounty. After a while it looks like sports drinks will sell. Before my eyes they're lining up in large numbers.

Now then, let's look at everyone who's working hard.

Only the Hunters with competitive strength are here; there's a lot of young boys here as helpers working hard too. Okami-san and Munami are also not losing against them in their movements. I totally understand that the inn's work is labor-intensive.

But, with a flourish that those men can't hope to compare with, is Ramis. A pillar that would take three of them to lift and carry, with a light heave she's able to lift and carry it to the tray.

For the rubble that's too big to carry, she'll pummel it with her fists and kick it down to a convenient size. The Hunters who witnessed it were struck dumb with amazement. No wonder. A petite, sweet-looking girl swinging a by no-means common super-human strength is too much of a gap. It would be stranger not to be surprised.

"We've got a lot so I'll take it away-. Up it goes!"

Originally the trays should be carried by boars with horns – – Unasusu, and horse-like animals, but with that girl's strength there's absolutely no problems; like it was obvious she went and carried them by herself.

All the Hunters gazed blankly at her figure going away slowly.

"Amazing, that girl. We can't be left behind."

"That has to be the power of a Divine Gift. But anyway, that's amazing super-strength."

"When the reconstruction work settles down, I'd want to invite her onto the team, but with a talent like she's probably already scouted by a famous team."

I've been listening in on the guys' talking, but Ramis seems to be getting a high evaluation. With just working hard the Hunters can see her excellence. I understand, I totally understand. But the truth is she doesn't have any Hunter comrades.

Right now she gets along great with the residents of the community, but when it comes to the Hunters, aside from the President and the whatever-they're-called brigade, I don't think she can even have a decent conversation.

Previously because that girl's power was unmanageable to the degree it was pointless, it looks like everyone she grouped with would treat her as a burden. This girl has the monopoly on the so-called simple physical labor. Her Hunter's requests too, like this her main evaluation will probably change.

"I'm back-!" Ok, time to go full power-."

From the dust cloud in the distance being rolled up and coming closer, I had thought so, but when she isn't carrying any weight her legs are really fast na. But, without being burdened with something as heavy as me her body is too light and she can't move as she expects to; it's a troublesome constitution.

It was grumbled about before, but without some degree of weight she can only run; it seems like moving is a difficult feeling and she feels like she's bouncing around. The gauntlets for her arms are already prepared with iron plates; looks like she just needs to adjust the weight.

Since she regularly moves while suppressing her power, she made countless mistakes when her body wouldn't move like she wanted, and the surroundings treated her like a dunce. That is the reason for the reactions that girl was faced with.

She had also been the student of a Hunter with remarkable ability at one point, but that Hunter left on a journey about two months ago; she was always being burdened with fully-loaded bottles of water, she told me nostalgically.

"O-, they're at it, they're at it. Ramis-chan, Hakkon, you guys doing well-?"

At this place where the hard work makes sweat run like streamers, the man who just arrived with half-awake eyes, a big yawn, and stubble; it's Brigade Leader Keryoil.

I wonder if that ten-gallon hat that looks like it came out of a Western is his favorite; even when he was in the campground he was still wearing it. He's certainly got skill, but those glances he sends this way from time to time gives a suspicious feel to him; honestly I can't get wipe the image from my mind that he's an old man that absolutely can't be trusted.

“O,oi, that man, isn’t he the leader of the Fools of Whimsy Brigade?”

“The top class, in that hunter team-”

“I wonder if he’ll shake hands with me after this.”

All the young Hunters here working stopped their hands; they’ve become excited.

What the hell. So Leader Keryoil is famous. He’s skilled, his brigade members seem to love him; to think he’s got this popular-guy setting. Even though that Brigade, the Fools of Whimsy Brigade, has that suspicious naming sense, it’s well known in the Hunter community.

“O-, gentlemen, you’re doing your best ne-. For the hard working young ones, this old man will hand over a reward. Come choose what you want from Hakkon, my treat. Naturally, those young girls and everyone over there are welcome too.”

Uwaa, this is my first time seeing someone who purely uses those kind of pompous words. I can’t decide whether he’s serious or acting, but whichever it is, I’m not good with this person.

All the young Hunters make a fuss, but Ramis, Munami, and Okami-san don’t change, na. They’re calmly scheming.

“So you’ll treat. Then, for myself ... this and this.”

“Rami-, in cases like this you should start with the most expensive ones, yo.”

“Well then, for my appetizers, I guess I’ll have about 100 of the one with the stewed items.”

Yo, you merciless two over there. Since they run an inn, I guess they know how to deal with this kind of fellow.

“Th, that’s a bit... if you could make do with up to two per person, ne.”

Peering into the bag with his money in it, Leader Keryoil's cheeks twitched. That's good, do it more.

At a glance, he looks like a weak person who can be easily pushed around ... with his sleepy looking face that has no tension, but when you see the sharp gleam in his eyes underneath the brim of his hat, that impression is blown away.

"Ramis-chan, do you have any interest in entering my brigade? Of course, along with Hakkon na."

It's like he's using food to bait her; that kind of ridiculous thing came out of his mouth as he clasps Ramis by the shoulder.

Without any indirectness at all, that direct solicitation came. I wonder how Ramis will reply. Looking at how the surrounding Hunters have jealous faces, just what is this Fools of Whimsy Brigade. Being invited here must be quite the honor.

"Right, no thanks."

Ramis replied immediately like that, and brushed off the hand on her shoulder. Good job, I'm touched.

He didn't think he would be refused at all; his eyes and mouth are as wide open as they can get. A, your trademark hat is slipping.

"I, I see. Ma, maa, think it over. If you change your mind just come over. -tto, I'd also like to buy water from Hakkon. The hangover from yesterday is awful ..."

"Ira- shyaimase."
(wel- come.)
(ira <- annoyance)

A, his hat is on the verge of slipping off.

-
1. Okami-san – refers to the female proprietress of an inn. I was going to translate it to Ms Proprietress-san, but mah, Okami-san is easier to deal with in the long run.
 2. Keryoil – switched it to Keryoil because Keryoil seems harder to say, I tried to make it more fantasy-ish, the -i in ri can sometimes be translated to -y, and -ru on an ending can be translated to -l if you feel like it (though in the end, unless there's an insert/illustration with the romanji, all these mods are up to the translator's taste). That being said ... sigh. This is why katakana's a pain.

CHAPTER 17

GOLD COINS AND SILVER COINS

Leader Keryoil unsteadily tottered back in grief.

In my opinion the refusal was obviously the correct answer. Even if it's a famous brigade, if you enter it then your battle scenes will increase. I understand the reason why Hunters would do so even if it brings them side-by-side with danger. But you know, right now that girl is among veterans, without worries; here she can take her time to sit down and stretch, and I think it's a convenient place.

But, all of that is my opinion; the important point is Ramis' opinion, why did Ramis refuse?¹ This didn't remain a mystery.

"Oi oi, you, why did you refuse an invitation to the Fools of Whimsy!?"

O, short-haired Hunter, nice tsukkomi. That, that's what I want to know.

"N-, because, this town is in the middle of reconstruction. If there's not enough people to help, won't it be a problem?"

All the Hunters who heard her weren't able to close their mouths. A-, Ramis ... I don't think he particularly meant right away. If you said something you probably could have waited and joined after the reconstruction was over.

"OK, everyone let's continue to work hard, ne!"

Everyone other than that girl heaved a sigh and went back to work. Not understanding the situation, with her head tilted to one side, Ramis also returned to removing rubble.

Like that, nothing particularly interesting happened after. And then it was noon. I sold tons of cup ramen and oden to the inn reconstruction corps, and then, burdening Ramis once again, I moved to the front of the Hunter Association.

To everyone who had been waiting for our arrival, one after another I sold goods to.

With this kind of trend, I'll make back my minuses from yesterday in a flash.

Most of the customers who have purchased things before have returned, but today there are also a lot of people who haven't tried even once before. With all these faces I don't recognize, that means they're people who have just come to this Clear Stream's lake level.

These people's common points are having a cloth wrapped around their heads with long ends, and wearing trousers with a lot of pockets. How do I say it, they're really carpenter-like. Just from what I've seen, there are roughly about 100 people here, zo. With this, the community's population will probably jump up to at least double the original.

What a paaain-, haven't I just about sold out of goods again? What a paaain-, what should I do, what should I do ... I guess I'll calculate my points later.

"Yoooosh, Hakkon let's get back to woork-."

"Welcome."

Once again I return to my original position in front of the inn; the people who come to buy things accompany me while they spend. Suddenly there's a person standing in front of me.

So people who wear glasses and suits exist in this world. Wearing black-rimmed glasses, with a green shirt and a skirt that reaches slightly above the knees, is a woman; she's really staring in my direction.

If we were in Japan she would be an accountant or a lawyer type of person. With her sharp, upward-slanting eyes, she's a beautiful woman who has a bit of a scary image.

Behind her, standing over 2 meters away, is a giant man; I assume that man is an acquaintance. With an inverted triangle body shape mass of muscles and long arms², on his face he has a wrinkle between his brows, downward-slanting eyes, and a low nose. Honestly, from a first impression, it's a gorilla with the good parts of a human. His clothes are really tight and suit-ish; it looks like it will rip at any moment. He's carrying an enormous backpack-like thing.

“There’s no mistake that you are the box with a will. It appears you are called Hakkon-sama.”

Suddenly she throws those words at me. E, exactly how should I respond? Fo, for now, let’s just make my usual greeting.

“Welcome.”

“According to the information that was previously investigated, that was what we can assume to be ‘yes’, I believe.”

... It’s so hard! Talking to this person!

Her facial expression doesn’t change one bit; this air of intimidation isn’t half-baked at all. Just having her look at me and my body stiffens. Maa, I’m a vending machine though.

I wonder what her objective is. It looks like a serious-ish talk, but wha, what should I do?

“Are? Hakkon, what’s going on? Umm, who might you be?”

Ramis popped out from behind me, showing her face, and without hesitation she called out to the black glasses lady.

“You are Ramis-san, correct? Please excuse me. I am in the money-exchange business; you can call me Akoui. From hereon I hope to become acquainted with you. The one waiting behind me is my assistant, Gogai.”

“It is a pleasure to meet you.”

The cold, clear voiced Akoui and the warm, laid-back tone of Gogai. A pair of two extremes they are.

But, money exchangers, huh. It’s like that, in the modern age where they exchange Yen to Dollars. Certainly in the old days there were professions to exchange gold coins for silver coins, and vice-versa. They’re something like the original banks is what I heard

from somewhere.

“I have received information that this Level has a shortage of silver coins, and so we have come concerning this.”

Who is it, the guy who’s hoarding silver coins. For crying out loud, what an outrage.

“A-, that’s because you can only pay Hakkon in silver coins!”

Shhh, Ramis, you can’t say that. E, could it be, that another way to say their complaint is that hoarding all of one type of coin caused it to stagnate in circulation?

Even if you say that, since they’re converted into points there’s nothing you can do about it now.

“So it was like that after all. With that, we have come here and decided to offer an opportunity, a proposal for Hakkon-sama. We have brought about 100 gold coins, so why don’t we exchange them with some of your hoarded silver coins?”

Are, it’s a business discussion? I don’t really have any opinions on exchanging silver and gold coins, but I’m pretty sure 1 gold coin is the same value as about 100 silver coins. In Japanese Yen, a gold coin is probably around 100,000, probably. Maa, there’s probably some fluctuations in there, but overall that’s probably what it’s worth. But anyway, 100 gold coins is a really large amount of money to be carrying. Is that gonna be ok?

I’d like to exchange it if I can, but how should I go about it?

There’s probably some function like <Exchange>. But for a regular vending machine, they don’t usually have an exchange function. Eeto, looking quickly, it doesn’t look like it’s there.

“Too bad.”

“Does that mean you won’t accept?”

I’m terribly sorry. I’d like to if I could, but I have no way to.

“A, even if exchanging is impossible, it might be fine to buy things with gold coins. Like that you might be able to get them as change, maybe?”

At Ramis' casual words, Akoui's head, which was hanging slightly in disappointment, regained its vigor and faced forward. Her eyes were sparkling with fire; it was the first time I saw something like emotions from her.

Actually, I wonder what would happen if you put gold coins in. Up until now there hasn't been even once where gold coins were inserted. It's a situation where I don't know if you'll get change, since there's not been a brave soul who was willing to use a gold coin and test it out.

"I see! In other words, Gogai, buy something. With gold coins."

A, the first investor, huh. Wh, what should I do? If, by any chance, the change doesn't come out, then I'll try to return the gold coin as is.

Oo-, for the first time in my vending machine life a gold coin is inside Mine body. If they buy a one silver coin product, then 99 silver coins should come out as a result. Men should have guts; let's try it out.

For the first ever, a feeling welled up and the vending machine vibrated with its entire being. This is, I guess it means a gold coin has entered my body. This isn't time to be immersed in the afterglow. What of the change?

Clanking, silver coins flowed into the change tray; the overflowing silver coins spilled onto the ground. All the surrounding Hunters were watching swallowed their saliva.

So the change came out normally. If it didn't I might have been treated like a thief.

"Like this it's fine, ne. Let's keep on buying."

Gold coins were put in one after another, and silver coins were ejected one after another. Gogai bent that enormous body over and gathered the silver coins that were left.

After 10 gold coins had been put in, Akoui-san also seems to be satisfied. With a pleased face she gazes at the backpack stuffed with silver coins.

“Any more than this and we might burden Hakkon-sama, so we’ll stop here for now. Then, in the future, we’ll come to buy things. From here on, continue at your discretion.”

Her retreating figure almost looks like its skipping. Without any trouble, Gogai-san carries the backpack stuffed with a large amount of coin and goods. It’s a muscle strength that doesn’t go against his appearance.

We’ll probably have a long relationship with those people. They don’t seem to be difficult people though.

“Hakkon, you had an amazing amount of money, ne. Be careful so no one steals from you.”

“Welcome.”

That’s true. Maa, if I’m ever destroyed and dismantled, I have suspicions about whether there will be coins or not inside, though. Since it’s a system where even the goods are spouted out, aside from whether or not the coins are inside my body, it’s more a feeling that things appear when they’re requested for.

During the span of this discussion, there was many a hot stare directed in my direction. From the young Hunters’ point of view, right now there are 10 gold coins sucked into my body; it must look like a really enticing opportunity.

Oh yeah, a vending machine won’t be left somewhere with poor public order, like that, the fact that Japan has vending machines is good evidence that there’s peace and security.

For a while, it looks like it’ll be good to be wary of the people who will be thinking about doing stupid things.

“A, right, right. Sorry, Hakkon! I kept forgetting to tell you, but it looks like we won’t be able to meet with Hyurumi for a while. I sent a letter but there wasn’t a response ... it’s probably that she’s moving between Levels. So, until we get a response we’ll be on standby here, ok?”

To the Ramis with her hands together and **pekopeko** lowering her head at me, I reply “Welcome.” For a second, I couldn’t remember who Hyurumi was, but it’s the magic-tool engineer friend she told me about when we met for the first time, huh.

Oh yeah, there was that kind of goal too; like a bystander would, I had that kind of thought.

It was a day with a strange encounter, but the first day of reconstruction ended without anything particularly problematic to report. When night came, I remained at my spot in front of the Hunter’s Association and the dinner goods also sold out; I stared absentmindedly as the community’s lights went out one after another.

There’s something like a magic tool here in place of light bulbs, and the community has these lights scattered about, but as expected, compared to Japan’s nights it’s pretty dark. Since magic tools look like they’re pretty expensive, it looks like the common household doesn’t use them. There are also quite a few of the standard lanterns and tents with torches.

Just within range of the lights is it bright, but just go a little away you’re standing in a deep, black darkness.

The spot I’m in is away from light, so normally people would have a hard time spotting me. But, I am a vending machine. Because I emit a personal light, like usual I stand out because I’m weird.

However, today I turned off Bright Luminescence Mode and, furthermore, I selected the Coating Change function, and painted my body completely black all over. At the time of the exchange there were Hunters watching too, but there was one look that was from the small-time villain who had been aiming for money during the expedition. With the night’s darkness they can take cover in, they come hoping to avoid too much trouble.

“Are-, it looks like it’s always right around here.”

“Isn’t it ‘cause it doesn’t have any way to move? I mean, look, that super-strength girl is always carrying it around, right?”

“Dammit, it would have been easier to get around it at the inn site.”

Just when I was talking about them. It's not the young Hunters we were working with, but a group of 3 men who look like they were looking for me.

Actually, in case they try to make a pass at me I still have <Barrier>, and if I playback my voice at the highest maximum volume, countless numbers of people will come flooding out of the Hunter's Association so there's no problem. But you know, if this can be dealt with peacefully, that would be for the best.

1. kanjin na Ramis wa naze kotowattanoka – I don't know if it's a change that needs its own writeup, but saying "why did the important Ramis refuse" kind of made it sound like Ramis was feeling self-important for some reason so she refused, but the implication is that Ramis' opinion is more important than the MC's own, so I mused with the sentence a little.
2. inverted triangle– refers to the body profile of broad shoulders, narrow waist. Often indicates a very masculine, buff body.

CHAPTER 18

THE ADULT VENDING MACHINE

It's been one week since then. The community is in full-on reconstruction mode; people and money have been flowing in in huge numbers; it's become pretty lively. A way to tell the new residents apart is whether or not they're surprised at seeing me. It's truly easy to understand.

With just this number of people, though it's actually kind of a mystery as to how the Hunter Association that runs the community can provide for them all, but one way or another, the material from the two-headed snake and demon frogmen became quite the earnings; it seems it's become an outrageous amount of gold coins.

By the way, the subjugation party has already received the promised reward from the previous time, and in exchange it's contracted so that all the material drops from the monsters are acquired by the Hunter Association; the Hunters who had to carry it themselves were pretty bitter about it.

In the end, it looks like the Hunters who had participated in the subjugation of the King Frogman received a separate additional reward, and with that no complaints came from anyone's mouths. Come to think of it, the Hunters who couldn't escape because of their wounds came with a "It was all because of you, so thank you" and bought huge amounts from me.

It looks like that two-headed snake is a monster called Jyasouma¹, and seems like it's an inhabitant of this Seiryuu's Lake Level. As expected, it seems like it's the natural enemy of the frog people; usually we are able to avoid it when the clashes between the two break out, but this time when the Jyasouma went out, it seems it had been strengthening its body as it attacked small frog people communities.

And so, from the frog community we were fighting this time, eating the frogs that had increased a lot on the way, it found the community humans were living in; that's the Hunter Association's view on the matter.

But maa, if you're wondering how I know so much about it, by the way, it's because

I'm currently in the Hunter Association President's office.

"So, *maa*, that's about the gist of the case this time. And Ramis and Hakkon, you both did well. If you guys weren't there, then the possibility that the situation would become the worst was especially high, so I give you my thanks."

"Th, that's, please raise your head!"

From the sofa interposed from the large desk, the bear President half-rose and lowered his head, and Ramis, in order to try to stop him, was violently waving both arms. Her movements were so violent that a wind began to spin. Super-strength, how terrifying.

And then, standing beside these two is a vending machine. If someone from Earth saw this, they'd probably be doubting their eyes *na*.

"The reason we called you today was also to give an explanation to the separate reward for this time's case, but there was also a matter we'd like to consult with Hakkon."

I wonder what it is. He's being so formal and even stiffening up. The bear President's eyes have hints of earnestness; somehow my animal-like instincts are whispering to run away. I'm a vending machine, though.

I know that he's a good person inside, but when there's a huge bear at full force right in front of your eyes, it's really not that easy to get used to it.

"Hakkon, I heard that you were able to put out any product that the other party wants, but I was wondering if that was true."

Another excessive expectation. Certainly I have the ability to choose what products I stock according to what someone wants, but the products are limited to [vending machine products I have purchased before].

If I could put out anything, then I could have set up pistols and weapons and that fight would probably have become something fun. Something vending machines don't sell is impossible, and just saying, I can brag that I've basically bought any product that

I've seen, but even then there was still probably vending machine products that I didn't know about in that world.

That's why the answer is "no", but I want to convey that I can to some degree. How should I respond?

"Welco- Too bad."

"*Mu*, what does that mean?"

"Probably, Hakkon means that he can, but there are also things that he can't."

"Welcome"

Ramis' interpretation helps out a lot.

The bear President also understands now, and nods his head many times. A, he looks like a bear at the zoo begging for food; oops, I shouldn't be thinking that.

"So that's it. Then, since there's a possibility, there's a matter I'd like to discuss. A-, Ramis, could you leave for a bit? This is something I'd like to talk to Hakkon about privately."

"That's fine; uuum, would it be fine if I waited on the first floor?"

"Aa, please. As soon as we're done, I'll send someone to let you know."

"Un, got it. Talks between men are things you don't want to get involved with; Mother always said that too. Then, I'll be waiting below."

"Thank you very much."

Because I called out to her as she was leaving, Ramis turned and waved her arm wildly then shut the door.

Behind closed doors is a bear and a vending machine. Though if that guy doesn't hurry up and start the discussion then there's no way to continue the discussion.

"First let me explain the situation. Currently, this community is getting overrun with a

huge amount of people. Formerly, three years ago, this was a much more prosperous community ... no, you could call it on the scale of a town.”

I can tell that the people are increasing just from looking at the sales, but that something or other happened three years ago was something I had heard from the mouths of Okami-san and Karios.

So here was once a place you could call a town without hesitation ... huh. The buildings in the area around the Hunter Association are really nice too; I did think that this community was too big for about 100 people no matter how you looked at it, but I see, I get it now.

“That one year many of the citizens died in great numbers, and the ones left alive all left this place. The ones who remained were like Hunters and the merchant types with strong enterprising spirits, *na*. Here, there isn’t a single thing under taxes. The intentions on the ones who remained behind were, in this one year, without any timidity, to recover the damages that were lost.”

The people here are really strong. Just one resident alone is reliable.

“This time against the Jyasouma, that it was repulsed without any casualties got spread around, and the praises for the defense team were spread loudly; all of the people hoping to immigrate gathered, and that is how the current trend of prosperity came to be. We’re not just repairing the ruined buildings, we have plans to construct new residences and shops too.”

There are more and more money making opportunities! I wonder what new products and features I should do, though right now I shouldn’t be thinking about that.

“As people increase, various problems come up. For things related to food we’ve put our hopes on Hakkon, and because the shop keepers also understand there are large amounts of goods flowing in, so there are no worries there.”

Fumu fumu. This is probably the first time there was a stand in front of the Hunter Association too. Recently, cup ramen sales have been falling, so it’s about time I chose a new product. *Maa*, for that loss, the beverages have been selling well so the total

sales haven't changed though.

As expected, the veterans that have survived Japan's widely diverse beverage industry have taste, sensation, and the ideas are new-like, so right now they'll easily triumph over the drinks in this other world.

"Sorry, my story strayed a bit. Now then, we're getting to the main part. Currently, what we believe to be the most pressing concern relates to the sex industry. We Bearfolk have a very slim desire in that regards as long as it's not breeding season, but that's not the case for Humans. Before the increase of people, it was a situation where the demand was supplied for."

So this is where the talk was headed. No wonder Ramis was withdrawn.

That the Bear President was a race called the Bearfolk is also an important piece of information, but let's leave that for right now. *U-n*, I have a metal body so it looks like I have been freed from those 'desires', but I know the compulsion well.

"There's also a hygienic problem that comes with that; if a disease began to be spread, then it would delay the reconstruction work. And so, because of that, we'd like to strengthen our control over this, but then other problems will spring up. I understand this is an absurd request, but Hakkon, do you not have any counter-measures?"

That really is an absurd proposal. U, u-n, a counter-measure against disease did come to mind. It's just, I don't know the state of this world very well, so the question is whether or not something similar to this exists or not.

Let's just try to put one out, then see what his reaction is.

This is a box-shaped product, so if I don't add the function it won't work, huh? Uuum <Boxed Product Support> should be fine? *Fumu fumu*, with this I can have the option for boxed snacks and cigarettes. The problem is, since I haven't smoked a cigarette even once, I'll have to give up on selling cigarettes.

I've also added the product, so let's set it up.

"Hou, so you can switch the products to be all the same item like this. *Fumu*, it's all this box. This is Hakkon's plan?"

“Welcome.”

“Then, I will try buying them. It looks like there are three types, so I guess I’ll buy all of them. But for them to be 10 silver coins, it’s not cheap.”

Since one box is about 1,000 yen in Japan, I set it according to the price of the beverages, but if it’s too high then I’ll think about changing it.

“So I should open the box. There’s a small pouch with notch in it. Do I tear it from there and take out the contents?”

“Welcome.”

“*Fumu*, so it looks like I’m not wrong. This looks like it will be a little difficult to handle with my hands. That’s right, this is a good place to call that girl. Shirley, please come here.”

In response to the Bear President’s call, the single door set in the wall that was not alongside the corridor opened, and from there a single lady’s figure appeared.

In an evening dress that clings to the body with a slit going up past the hips, with every step you catch a glimpse of her captivatingly long, slender, porcelain-like legs. Both her shoulders are bared, and her breasts as well are daringly displayed in a cut down to her stomach; your eyes are drawn to the valley of her abundant chest.

To say she was an exhibit of the ideal body-style wouldn’t be an exaggeration, she’s a woman who would even incite jealousy in those of her own gender, and it’s not just her body. The facial features displayed up top won’t lose to anyone either.

Glossy black hair flowing down her back, eyes half-open with a somehow sleepy look, light red, moist lips together, all of it brings about a sublime seductiveness.

A, this person is related to that kind of business. She has an attraction to her that seems to declare that.

“*Ara*, so this should be Hakkon-san *kashira*. A pleasure to meet you; I’m Shirley. Thank

you for your aid in this matter.”

Her smiling face is also seductive. If I didn't have a vending machine as a body, I wouldn't be able to meet her eyes with any decency. How her legs were placed when she sat on the sofa was somewhat; it's like you should be able to see it, but you can't see it, just barely, so you have to imagine it.



“This is a product that Hakkon suggested, but with these hands it will be difficult for me to handle it, so if you wouldn’t mind doing it instead.”

“Of course *desuwa*. This is a product for our sakes, after all. Tear here, I suppose ... *ara*, this is, what a mysterious material *desuwa*. How it stretches and contracts is somehow amusing *wa*.”

I wonder what’s with this kind of immoral mood.

“There’s a slimy liquid sticking to one side, isn’t there? What is this used for?”

“That is, I have no idea. Oh yeah, there was a piece of paper in the box. Try reading it.”

“I will take a look *suwa*. A, so that’s what it is. There’s an illustration to help make it easier to understand.”

I wish she’d stop her bewitching smile. It feels like it will arouse some kind of malfunction in the vending machine.

“Oo, I think I understand. The ways this is supposed to be used.”

“Once this is equipped to that place on the gentleman, then it can be inserted into the lady’s private area. According to the types of boxes, the gentleman’s largeness can be supported *desuwa*. With just this thinness, it won’t get in the way of the action, and yet it also protects against diseases; what a splendid luxuriousness.”

As expected of a Pro. She figured out a condom in one go, huh? She’s not just putting on a show, she honestly seems delighted.

By the way, this is a digression, but you should know the SML sizes that the boxes have. I can’t set up any products other than the ones that I had bought while I was alive, so why can I assemble the three various sizes? Vanity and pride and reality are all I’m going to say. If you’re a man, then everyone has gone and tried it out in preparation for the real thing right ... right?

Shirley went through the boxes and checked the sizes, quantities, and prices, taking notes and nodding lightly.

“We will definitely come purchase these. If you have any other products you can suggest, I would be willing to take a look.”

C, can't be helped. If you say it like that, I guess I have no choice but to show them. M, maa, I also didn't really buy too many adult-related products, so there aren't that many products to put in order.

After that, somehow the business consultation was completed and Shirley-san, with undulating hips, left the President's office. Her last words that she whispered, “If you were a man, then I would personally be your partner; what a shame *desuwa*,” were *way sick*.

But, when I reunited with Ramis,

“*Are*, Hakkon, your body is a little hot. Did something good happen?”

When I was told that I went entirely cold, worrying about if the heat insulation function was broken. Her sharp instincts can be good and bad; this was the first time I thought that.

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1. jyasouma – written with the kanji for “snake” “pair” and “evil/demon”. I did think about calling it an Evil Twin Serpent or whatever, but stringing words together to make a unique-sounding species works way better in Japanese than English, and in the end it won't sound much different from “two-headed snake”. Species of snakes are usually called something other than “such and such snake” anyway (like a viper, or cobra or something), so it's not too weird to just keep it as jyasouma, I think.

CHAPTER 19

LOTTERY

Looks like I got my hands on another new function.

I've been thinking that I wanted this function from way before, but I ended up dragging it out because I was always busy with something. Recently things have calmed down a little, so I made up my mind and took it.

"Congratulations. You have won another bottle."

("Atari ga detara mou ippon")¹

"Alright, alright, come on, come on, 7, 7, siiix, WHAAAaaat!"

"Too bad."

That's right, the real goal is to finally have the possibility to use this voice-clip. I have added the lottery function. If the 777 number is lined up then you win and get another; it's something that anyone has hopes for at least once.

Since I've first installed it, sales have grown close to 30%. Since this community doesn't have many entertainment facilities, even though it's such a simple slot machine like thing, people who get really into it appear one after another.

In addition, between the residents they say that if you win you'll have good luck for the rest of the day; that sort of suspicious rumor is spreading, and the people who come to buy things to test their luck are increasing.

Even though it as something designed to bring a little spice and fun into everyday life, one of my regulars has unexpectedly become addicted; today as well he's pointlessly buying up loads of products.

"Calm down, I should calm down. This is, this is going to be the last one. If I go with the probability up until now, water has the greatest winning possibility. Therefore buying water will be the shortest path to certain victory!"

That's, I think the frequency went up because you're overwhelmingly buying water, old man.

With bloodshot eyes and ragged breathing, his finger on top of the button and letting out a yell, it's one of the three of my morning regulars, the old man. Up until there had been many times where he had come together with the old woman, but after the Lottery was implemented, he'd come alone early in the morning at a time when no one else was around and spin the slots at least six times before he went back.

Incidentally, it's possible for those who installed a vending machine to freely change the winning percentages of a vending machine's slot function.

And, for some trivia, there's a rumor that if you want to win the slots, you should choose unpopular products.

Even though it's a slot-machine system, there are also things like the winning chances are dictated by how the commodities are displayed, or the limit in premiums for rewards are generally already decided, or that the chances are 2% of the estimated total sales.

In other words, if you buy 100 bottles of the product, if you are supplied with at least 2 bottles, you're doing well.

Maa, when it's all said and done, in the end it's all luck, you know. If you want to win no matter what, you have to sink money in like you want to buy up everything in order to secure your win.

"Everything for this one chance, all of my gambling life-!"

"What are you doing, Grandfather ..."

Right in front of the old man, when he turned around while making a face like, "Uh oh-!", is the old woman, raising her cane over her head with a smiling face. So he's finally been caught. Well yeah, if he sneaks out of the house early every morning, it's going to turn out like this.

"My goodness, I thought your bad habit from before had come out and you were

chasing ladies' rears again ... *haa*, but it was this disease that has relapsed instead."

"N, no, Grandmother is, you're mistaken. L, look, I was thinking I'd buy a lot of that soup you like, ouch-!"

The cane was swung down on top of the head of the Grandfather making excuses. It's fine, even though she hit him with a merciless force, it's probably ok.

"Even if your head splits, I can heal it so there's no need to worry."

Oh yeah, the old woman can use the Divine Gift, <Healing Light>, can't she? Then I don't have to worry ... I don't have to worry, right?

"My goodness, there's no way you've forgotten what day today is."

"I know. I know ... but let me do it one last time."

"GR, AN, D, FA, TH, ER."

Grandmother gave her cane a twist and a pull, and from inside you could see a dull glittering of light from a blade. E, you mean that's a sword cane-? Against Grandmother, who readied the katana that had appeared from the cane with a gentle smile, Grandfather's back has gone completely rigid.

"Th, the meet up! Grandmother's arm has been equipped to be quite fashionable. I get it, I was wrong."

"So you understand, *nee*. If that's the case, then let's go."

With many sorrowful side-glances in my direction, Grandfather left with Grandmother pulling him along. Usually there's the feeling that Grandmother accommodates Grandfather, but in actuality he was charmed by Grandmother's butt, huh?

Today, Grandfather seems to have gotten even more aggravated than usual at the slots. With how Grandmother was speaking, it looks like there's some important errand, but because he doesn't want to go, it seems he was trying to escape reality.

If I was capable of holding a conversation, I could have become someone that could have listened to even one of his complaints, but a vending machine is something that can't do anything but sell things.

Though I'm also interested about Grandmother, like always I provide people with products, and before I realize it, the town is dyed red. Sunset, huh ... even though this is the inside of a Dungeon, like it's natural, the sun rises and the sun sets. And it does it without looking unnatural at all; it probably means that I've grown used to the other world, too.

Today it looks like Ramis is busy, so it's one-day abandonment play in the vicinity of the Hunter Association.

Talk that recently the restaurants and food carts, provoked by the vending machine's food products, have raised the level of their food's taste is something that I've been hearing often. Since I think it's great that the community is livening up like that, from evening and through the night, I don't put up food related products.

The time the otherworld people retire for bed seems to be early, so even if they open late, all the stores are closed by 22:00, so from thereon after I place hot cup ramen and canned oden, as well as the recently acquired canned curry udon.

There's a mode where you can provide the ability to heat up frozen products, but if I do that, half of the vending machine would be occupied with this function, and I wouldn't know whether to whether to do beverage mode or do cup ramen in the other half.

"Grandpa, Grandpa. Are you hungry? That rectangular thing, it's the box where lots of food comes out of, *ne*. May isn't hungry, but I wonder if it's tasty."

I hear the voice of a very young girl. That's a really round about way to ask for something. The way she insists she doesn't want to eat at all is pretty cute. She seems to be somewhat of a precocious child.

"Oh, is that so? Then, let me buy you something. What does May want to eat, *jya*?"

N, right now that was voice of the old man regular, wasn't it? Like this morning's

unpleasant mood was a lie, his whole face lit up with a smile and he's holding the girl's hand. Next to them is the old woman and an adult-looking woman with three braids that looks like she's in her twenties.

"I'm glad I decided to come ... I'm sorry for being a daughter who neglects her parents."

"For a parent, the greatest disrespect is for you to die before them, you know? *Maa*, you were able to get this old because you were a capable child, though I think we spoiled you too much, *nee*. "

They're having a heavy conversation. I know that listening in as a kind of third-party is rude, but I don't have any way to cover my ears so please pardon me.

That woman is their daughter, then. By their appearance, the old couple looks to be in the late half of their sixties, but with the daughter actually being in her thirties, it's not really that weird of an age difference.

"This person was reluctant to the bitter end. Even though he actually wanted to meet you he went back to his bad habits; truly, he is a person who can't be frank."

"It's because he was prepared to disown me for eloping, so it's obvious *ne*. And it was even to someone he didn't like. And then, when I was tossed aside I shamelessly came back."

"It's not that. That person was worried about you, *nanyo*. Whatever you say, here is the inside of a Dungeon where monsters run rampant. And recently there have been monster attacks all over the place, and the defenses are lax. During this time, you one-sidedly sent a letter saying you were coming; he was always worrying about you."

"That, is that so?"

"That's right. I mean, when you ran from here, he began gambling even though he had stopped for so long."

Is what the old woman said, meanwhile the old man and his granddaughter were staring at my front in order to choose the products.

Aa, so this is why the old man has recently been constantly spinning the slots, trying to find a sure way to win. In order to prepare for today, out of desperation he was hoping to pull a win because of that rumor about the all-day good luck.

“Grandpa, these numbers, whaaat are they?”

“Aa, this, huh? When you buy something, this here will spin, and if the three numbers match you win, and you get to choose one more *jjayo*. And you know, they say that if you win here, you’ll be happy all day.”

“E-, is that so! May wants to try it out! I’m sure I’ll win!”

Raising her hand, the girl **pyon pyon** bounced. The old man’s eyes narrowed; watching his blindingly cute² granddaughter, his face became loose with a smile. It’s the first time I’ve seen him make such a gentle face.

“Then, let’s give it a go. Gramps will put the coins in here, and you push the button of what you want *ee*. By the way, Gramps’ recommendation is water *jjayo*.”

“Un, let’s try it!”

It looks like the girl can reach the lowest row, so let’s switch orange juice in there.

By standing on her tiptoes with all her might, the girl touched the orange juice button. While the juice came out of my opening, the slot’s numbers began to move.

“It’s 7 and 7! After I just need one more, *ne*!”

“If it’s 7s, you won’t win. All this time, it’s never come for me either.”³

“Se-ven, se-ven, se-ven, se-ven 7 came! I woooooon-!”

“Wh, what in the-!”

The fanfare sound rang and the red and blue lights that represented hot and could

flashed alternately. The girl bounces in happiness while the old man stands there, dazed.

He probably can't believe the scene before his eyes. Even though up until now he had to sink money in like crazy in order to get a win, his granddaughter pulled a win out of her first try, after all.

"May, hurry and choose, the time you get to choose the extra is almost over, *zo*."

"Then, this one!"

What the girl chose was the mineral water lined up next to the orange juice.

"Ok, this one is Grandpa's!"

"So you'll give it to me, thank you. It's just, finally getting the all-day happiness effect now, when the day is almost over *jya*. It's kind of a waste."

"E, why? Today, May met Grandpa and Grandma, I've been happy all day! That's why, it's not a waste at all!"

When those words came, the old man turned towards the sunset and looked up at the clouds. Though, with my height the old man's face was exposed, and near his eyes there was a glittering drop.

Grandfather and Grandmother, as well as Ms Daughter and Granddaughter. The four were lined up and walking away, and their shadows stretched out longer and longer on the ground. Those shadows looked like they were swaying, intertwined, in happiness, and then they disappeared into the distance.

Whether May-chan's win was a coincidence or not, trying to figure that out is meaningless, huh?

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1. atari detara mou ippon – literally, “A success has come out, so another bottle.” Since he may/may not be using his voice functions to make new words, instead of letting it be a pain in the butt later on, I’ll have the romanji below Mr Vending Machine’s words when he uses a new phrase, as well as when he starts mishmashing them.
 2. “cute” wasn’t actually in it, but it was the easiest way to make the meaning clear in English. She’s so cute/pure/innocent that she blinds him.
 3. literally he just says, “if it’s like that you won’t win”, but it’s suggested indirectly that it’s because she got 7s. Since that’s less obvious in English (whether she won’t win because the last number won’t come or if it’s because it’s 7s), I just wrote it in.

CHAPTER 20

ABDUCTION

A, greetings, vending machine here. Currently, I am in the middle of an acclaimed transport.

I've been placed in the middle of a swaying luggage rack of a wild boar transport cart; *maa*, it's fine, but the problem I have with this is, where and what circumstance am I talking from?

Since there's no canopy on top of the luggage rack, I can see the surrounding scenery well. Sometimes, from among the tall wild grass that springs up from the prairie, creatures that seem like deer with three horns will show their faces.

As for what else I can see, there are two men sitting in the driver's seat. Their ages are probably around the forties. Their faces are the types that don't leave any particular impression.

And, behind this transport there's one more wild boar transport cart following us. In that luggage rack there is a gang of 6 people that look Hunter-like. The colleagues of the ones who gave me troubles by placing me in this transport, probably.

Seri-ously, it's a bit late, but I should have been a little more suspicious.

Early in the morning they came; those guys lined up in a row in front of me, and began to talk to me.

"The President from the Hunter Association has made a request; the repair and reinforcement of the area around the wall has begun in earnest today. He wishes that Hakkon-san would sell things there for the time being."

Right at that time I was calculating my ability Points, and was just agonizing over what I should stock next and immediately replied "Welcome," being lost in the sea of my thoughts.

Up until now the bear President would come directly to ask or Ramis would come to

ask in exchange; there had only been those two, but I figured that it's possible that these people were just sent to let me know.

And then, again without my suspicion, the six men placed me on the transport. Here too I made another big mistake. After being put on the cart, the sunlight shining in on me from the window feels good; it's a situation where you get sleepy, *ne*. Even though I'm fine even if I don't sleep, because of my habits from my human era, I sometimes get sleepy.

With the transport swaying and the sound of the wheels clattering on the ground in place of a lullaby, my consciousness faded.

So, that's what the current situation is. This is, I'm probably being kidnapped *na*. I'm guessing their aim is the gold coins that were tucked inside me, or maybe they wanted me myself for their benefit.

There's absolutely no feeling that my life is at all in crisis, it's just that not being able to move with my own power is the number one most troublesome matter. Even if I manage to escape from these guys somehow, I don't have any way to get back to the community. This level is pretty big, so if I'm abandoned on the way, there's a good chance that no one will realize it for several years. *Maa*, I'll probably run out of points before that, though.

For now, let's use a measure of crime prevention that I acquired before, the vending machine security camera, to record the faces of the criminals. Recording them like this, I will always be able to playback their images inside my head, and there's no way I'll forget their faces.

At least two of them have faces I've seen before, *na*. They're customers who have been buying things frequently, recently, but I remember that they looked at the products with more zeal than other people.

Other than that ... n, aa, that guy's here too, huh? The bit-villain Gugoil is smirking and looking my way, laughing. As always, he has his small-fry act perfectly down.

<t/n: formerly Gugoiru, the guy who continuously tries to rob our MC>

It was this guy's plan to team up with a group with nasty habits; maybe they were

originally former comrades. If that's the case, then I guess they're going to drop me off somewhere and dismantle me. I'm pretty sure that Gugoil shouldn't know about my <Barrier>. I think other than Ramis and Leader Keryoil, no one else has seen it.

If that's the case, then let's make <Barrier> my trump card. That being said, at this rate the distance from the community is getting further away, and the probability of them finding me is getting smaller; wh, what should I do? I'm panicking a little.

O, ok, let's check over my abilities again to calm down.

Vending Machine Hakkon

Endurance: 100/100

Defense: 10

Strength: 0

Agility: 0

Dexterity: 0

Magic Power: 0

PT 11346

<Functions>

Refrigeration, Heat Insulation, Omni-Directional Sight, Hot Water Dispenser (Cup Ramen Support Mode), 2 Liter Support, Rod-Shaped Candy Vending, Coating Change, Box-Shaped Product Support, Vending Machine Security Camera

<Divine Blessing>

Barrier

As a vending machine I can brag that I'm highly efficient, but they aren't abilities that will help me flourish in another world, *na*.

I have an excessive, over ten thousand Points, but now that this situation has come about, even if it's the worst, with just this many points I can maintain <Barrier> for a long time, so let's think of it as a blessing in disguise. It can also support repairs as many times as I need.

Calm down, calm down. I won't be turned into scrap so soon. Since it seems like <Barrier> exhausts 1 Point for one second, then one minute would be 60. Then one hour will need 3600, won't it ... this, this is bad ...

Even though I was so happy about being able to do anything with my ten thousand Points, the power of past me's able-to-do-anything mood has dropped.

While I was thinking about these things, the distance from the community has been steadily growing farther and farther away; it seems like it's been about two hours since I've woken up.

"O-i, let's take a break."

The man in this transport's driver's seat turned around and yelled; the wild boar transport cart stopped.

From the wild boar transport cart that had been following behind as well, they disembarked in groups. And, these guys crowded around me; they can't be thinking that I'll obediently put out some food.

"Then, let's eat lunch. Oi, Hakkon. If you've got a conscious, you get this situation, right?"

Since his comrades are around, the bit-villain is getting carried away. Probably remembering that time's humiliation, he's laughing brainlessly while flashing a blade.

"Put out the food and drinks we want, for free. Even if you're an iron box, you understand what will happen if you refuse."

"Too bad."

I replied immediately. I don't have to tell you the result that provoking him here will lead to.

Not betraying expectations, blood rushes to Gugoil's face in an instant; he becomes red. This guy really doesn't understand the word "patience".

"You bastard, I'm going to break you!"

He plunges a dagger at the glass, but it's at the degree of being a light scratch on the surface.

《1 damage. Endurance has been reduced by 1.》

It's just 1 damage, even poorer than I expected. Damage from the Frog-men hurt more. No matter how many times I was wounded, the total damage didn't reduce more than 5.

"Gugoil, cut it out. Sure we're also aiming for this guy's contents, but I told you, he himself probably has worth as product. You're scratching it up pointlessly."

"Y, yessir. Sorry ... ke-, you escaped with your life."

A perfectly typical parting shot. The dude who stopped him has a body that is, compared to the others surrounding him, one size larger. He's similar to that person called Goggai, who was together with the money-exchanger woman, but only in physique.

There's a huge knife scar on his forehead that emphasizes his evil looks *na*. He has no eyebrows or hair on his head; is it shaved or is it natural? If it wasn't for his splendid moustache, he'd probably resemble the gatekeeper, Karios, quite well.

"You too, you probably don't want to be broken. In that case, I think it'd be wiser to obey us here."

This big man seems reasonable, more so than Gugoil. Certainly nothing good will come out of defying them here. Here I should pretend to obediently listen; analyzing the situation makes this seem like the best choice.

"Your head Is Too bad."

("Ata Ma Zannen" (lit: Head Too bad)) ¹

Yeah right. Like I'll listen to the gang that looks to be abducting me. If Ramis were here I'd absolutely refuse. In other words, if I want to stay with her from now on, I can't live

my life with any shame.

“Seems like you don’t get your situation. Oi, Gugoil. I heard that this guy can repair breakages himself.”

“Ya, that’s true. Even though he should have been pretty dented from the subjugation expedition, he completely went back to his clean state.”

“I see, then you guys, let him have it just to the point where he won’t break.”

If I had a sense of pain, this is a situation that would make me remember fear, but threatening a vending machine by surrounding him with a bunch of burly guys ... what a high-level gag.

Even though they don’t even get it, they’re going to recklessly wound me to get me to listen to them; what a simple way of thing. I guess they aren’t aware that it’s really stupid since their opponent is a metal box.

“If you’re going to apologize you better do it now. Unless the Boss forgives you, you won’t get any mercy so you’d better prepare yourself.”

The Boss, huh. So that’s the Top and these guys are all the minions. Well, *maa*, now that I’ve calmly acquired this information I have a clear understanding of the situation, though I don’t have any way of conveying that.

《 3 damage. Endurance has reduced by 3.》

《2 damage. Endurance has been reduced by 2.》

They’re really coming at me and hitting me mercilessly with weapons. If it continues like this, even if they’re not really doing me in, eventually I’ll be destroyed. But I’d like to keep <Barrier> hidden until the last minute. If I repair now, they’ll probably get worked up and the attacks will increase. What should I do; I think the right answer would be to make my opponents hurry and leave me alone before they’re on the verge of breaking me, but ... that is, their mood shows no signs of calming down.

I don't have enough Points for Divine Blessings. And there aren't any useful functions. I wonder if there isn't anything else I can do. My Endurance continues to fall; I have no way of fighting back. Even though, if I had just a little more Defense, I bet I would come out unhurt.

《Would you like to spend 1000 Points to increase Defense by 10?》

E-, while looking at the Defense line, words came floating up. E, you can even use Points to enhance Status!?

1000 Points to raise Defense definitely hurts, but it can reduce the damage I'm currently receiving. There's worth in doing so. Then, let's try raising it.

《Defense has become 20.》

I can't really tell but I probably got harder. Whether that's true or not, from now on I'll understand even if I don't want to.

《0 damage. Endurance has been reduced by 0.》

Alright, the damage has become nothing. Like this, with the reduction of my Endurance in this situation, I can leave it and those guys will probably mistakenly think what they're doing is effective, since I left behind all the damage until now. I guess I'll just watch until my opponents wear themselves out.

-
1. "Ata ma zannen" (lit: Hea d Too bad)
 2. From "Atari ga detara mou ippon" (Congratulations. You have won another bottle (lit: A win has come out so another one)), "Mata no gori you o omachishite imasu." (Please come again (lit: We await the next time you come)), "Zannen" (Too bad, what a shame, etc)
 3. While he could be calling the guy stupid, I think it's more likely that our MC is trying to call him "baldy", a common insult for older men in Japan even if the guy isn't bald. And calling him "baldy" just seems to suit our MC's sense of humor better than cleverly calling him dumb. But well, that's my interpretation.

CHAPTER 21

ABDUCTORS

With the guys breathing hard while they continue to beat me, I check my Status. If Defense could be raised, then there's the possibility that other abilities can be raised. First is, Endurance.

《Would you like to spend 1000 Points to increase Endurance by 10?》

So Endurance can be raised. But the ratio of consumed Points to increase is low, *na*. If Endurance increases by at least 100 then I'd raise it without hesitation, though. I wonder how the others are.

《Would you like to spend 10,000 Points to increase Strength by 10?》

《Would you like to spend 10,000 Points to increase Agility by 10?》

《Would you like to spend 10,000 Points to increase Dexterity by 10?》

You mean it's only 1 order of magnitude more ... Strength, Agility, and Dexterity are stats that vending machines don't need, so I don't have any plans to raise them, but it's pointlessly high, *na*?

Just maybe, if I raised Strength or Agility, if I shake the vending machine from side to side I might be able to walk. If it's possible, it would be pretty amusing, though. No matter what I can't get Magic Power to go up. It looks like I can't be the explosive magic vending machine. Too bad.

"You guys, about that much is enough."

"kay."

A, it ended. Since my Endurance had reduced by about 30 before I increased Defense, I look pretty terrible.

“Oi, this guy ain’t repairing *zo*.”

“Th,that can’t be. He definitely fixed himself before. Right before my eyes! O, oi, you bastard, hurry up and heal those wounds!”

Nope. I’m going to continue pretending to be out-of-order like this. I don’t even feel a bit like providing these guys with drinks ... A, no, I changed my mind; let’s give them some drinks.

“Gugoil, if this is broken, you know what will happen, *na*.”

“R,right-! O,oi, you box bastard, hurry up and heal those wounds! I bet you’re just pretending not to be able to move, right?”

Oh, he’s panicking, he’s panicking. *Maa*, I’m leaving the wounds as is, but I’ll send out a drink so calm down.

“B,boss! A product came falling down! S,see, it’s not broken!”

Enough for everyone, those guys gleefully gather the fallen beverages. Be grateful to my kindness *dazo*.

“*Maa*, I guess it’s fine. For now, give me one, I don’t care what.”

The drinks were distributed to all members. They opened the caps almost simultaneously; the guys who had worked up a sweat assaulting me swigged it all at once.

“*Buuuuuuuuu-!*”

“*Hack, cough*, wha,what the!?”

“Shit, are you freaking serious!”

How’d you like the taste of my careful selection of the worst 10 juices? Whenever a vending machine had a new product lined up I would go buy it without hesitation; if

there were great hits that I got, of course there was also great misses too.

It makes me wonder if the manager in charge has no sense of taste, that beverages so unbelievably bad would be good enough to sell. On the light side, they mixed all the vegetables that taste good with mayonnaise and add carbonation, and there's also adding all the strong-smelling Japanese toppings with carbonation ... both of these have to be from the same manufacturer, I bet.

There are quite a few other ones that deviate from the norm; I have yet to see the bottom of the depth of the beverage manufacturer industry.

"This guy, are you sure he isn't broken?"

"Maa, whatever. I'll figure out what to do when we get back to the hideout. If by chance he's completely broken, Gugoil. Don't think we'll let you off with an apology."

"Y, yessir."

With the Boss threatening him, his face is pale and it's like he'll collapse any minute. I don't have a bit of sympathy for him, so I don't really care, though. In the first place, it's because of this guy giving them this idea that it's turned out like this.

If I keep this up they'll think I really did break, and because of that they'll treat me super carefully. It's great that stage one has been completed, but in the end, nothing actually changed for the better.

When we reach the hideout, I wonder what I should do there. When it comes down to it, I can't think of a plan at all. I guess I can't do anything else but wing it. If it gets really bad, I'll resist with Barrier.

From then, without selling anyone either products or a fight, we reached our destination in about two hours.

We proceeded through the forest on an animal trail that was a little better than the gravel path; in this place with an abundance of nature, an unnatural structure was there. It was a huge hole in a wall; when we reached it, it turned out to be a rusting fortress on the brink of collapsing. Compared to the Hunter Association it's on a

smaller scale, but it was probably originally quite the sturdy fort. Looks like quite a few years have passed since it was abandoned; it looks like a fun spot if you want to explore ruined buildings, with ivy entangled everywhere.

“Boys, bring that inside. There, have that check him out.”

“Got it, but I can’t see that listening to what we say.”

“If it comes to that, I’ll just have your head separated from your body.”

“*Hii*- U,understood!”

Let’s downgrade the bit-villain to lower-grunt. But anyway, I wonder who the “that” they’re referring to is. It doesn’t seem like he’s a comrade they hold much trust in, though.

Laying the vending machine me down, it’s going to take six people to carry me, like I thought. The heavy-weight me who takes six people to somehow carry can be lightly carried by Ramis; she’s really beyond normal, *na*.

The side double doors have hinges that look like they’ll give out when hit with a heavy shock; when we intruded into the dilapidated fort, the inside was tidier than I thought it would be. The hall-like place was furnished with a full-length, handmade-feeling long table and a number of chair settings.

The large sofa along the wall is old, but seems of good quality. So they clean the floor diligently; there also isn’t any dust accumulated anywhere. He has a face like a heinous octopus, and yet he likes things kept nice and clean.

Just when I think we’re going to continue and go up the stairs at the end of the hall, looks like we’re heading towards the iron door in the right corner. When they opened the creaking door, right there are gloomy stairs leading downwards.

Like they were carrying a portable shrine, we descend the stairs and then head to the back; there were two men dressed in metal armor looking like they were keeping guard, watching the front of a door shut with a bolt. It’s a situation like they have some

heinous prisoner shut up under surveillance.

“Is that behaving?”

“As long as there are magic tools, that suddenly becomes obedient, making clattering noises.”

“What an easy to understand woman. *Maa*, if we give her this, she won’t get violent either, I bet.”

I’m eavesdropping on the bad guys’ conversation, but I’m understanding less and less of the person up ahead.

As he pulls the bolt and opens the door, he remains vigilant and readies the spear in his hand. I wonder if there’s some wild beast that likes magic tools in there.

“Oi, we brought back one of those toys you like so much. Figure this broken thing out and turn it back to its original self.”

“*Aan-?! You bastard, who the hell asked for your smart-ass mouth? You lower than shit bastards don’t get to order humans around-!*”

The threatening voice you could hear filled the entire room. When he heard those words, the lower-grunt was depressed; being unable to come up with even one comeback, he averted his eyes and had me placed in a corner of the room.

“H,here is this guys’ documents. Take a good look.”

“*Ha-*, didn’t your mama ever tell you to look people in the eye when talking to them? Or is it, you so scared, of this weak little girl *yooooo-?*”

A woman with a powerful delinquent¹ tone is staring intently. Though this person is a woman, her height is pretty much the same as mine, just a little shorter, about.

She has long hair the color of milk tea bundled in the back, but it looks like it’s only tied back to get it out of the way, so there’s a bunch of strands of hair sticking up.

Her slanted eyes are narrowed, glaring at the surprised me. From her thin, pink lips she spat out a “Cheh-!”, and even now it seems like she’ll spit on the floor.

I think it was white at one point, but she’s wearing clothes that have become mottled with brown and black all over. Above it she’s wearing what I thought was a black coat, but if I look closer, that’s a lab coat dyed black, isn’t it? The front is left open, and thanks to the clothes that cling to her body, I can tell her body type.

I unintentionally looked at her chest about twice; there’s nothing there. There’s basically no bulge.

She’s one of those, tall with a grim face and small breasts. The exact opposite of Ramis.

“A-n-! Those guys left it and ran away. Only in running away are they first class. And? What’s this? They said something about some documents.”



Picking up the stack of papers left on the ground like it's a pain, she gave it a look. Looks like this bad-mouthed girl is one of those people it would be better not to get too involved with. Like this, it feels like it would be better to pretend that I'm a harmless lump of iron.

"Hey, that true? You a magic tool with a conscious?"

So the documents mentioned that, huh? If I continue to play dumb, it feels kind of pointless-ish. She has a bad mouth on her, but she seems to be on bad terms with those guys, and they say that the enemy of your enemy is your ally. *N-*, I'm troubled as to how to respond.

"A-, don't tell me, you on guard thinking I'm one of those guys' friends? I'm a victim of being kidnapped and held here by those guys. No matter how ya see me, I'm a somewhat famous magic engineer *na*. Looks like I was brought to investigate you, mister."

If what she says is true, then it's my fault this woman fell into these circumstances. If I continue pretending to be just a normal vending machine, then it would be way too cowardly.

"Welcome."

"O-, it seriously talks! *Uooo -*, for a magic tool to understand words and respond, it's the first time I met one. Getting captured isn't all just bad things, *na*."

Her narrow eyes opened wide; the listless mood she had up until a moment ago disappeared, and breathing roughly she drew close to me and looked me over from corner to corner.

"Can I ask ya some questions?"

"Welcome."

"That mean's "yes" according to the documents, *na*. Then, I wanna ask ... whoa, my bad. First should be names, huh? My name is Hyurumi."

E-, I think I've heard that name before. Don't tell me, in a place like this we're meeting, even before meeting Ramis. This girl is the one Ramis was trying to get me to meet, her friend, the magic tool engineer, Hyurumi.

1. yankee – the punk kid delinquents of Japan

CHAPTER 22

MAGIC TOOL ENGINEER HYURUMI

“Though I roughly got it from the documents, is it true that you can use ‘Welcome’ and ‘Too Bad’ to communicate your intentions?”

“Welcome.”

“I see. Something like a magic tool that’s got the same intelligence as a human, this isn’t something I heard of until now. But something like weapons that understand human speech actually ain’t that rare, did you know?”

“Too bad.”

When she’s explaining things like this, her tone softens with an intelligent feel.

“There’s a lot left in books, *daze*, about those. It looks like there are also things that can be called intelligent weapons. But other than the specific user, nobody else can hear those types of weapons’ voices, and from the surroundings it seems like it was understood as nonsensical mutterings to a delusion, *na*. And then, the manufacturers of intelligent weapons are unknown, so with circumstances like that, that’s one of the main reasons it doesn’t have any credibility.”

Come to think of it, I’ve had some sort of experience with weapons with those settings in games and novels. So that means this other world also has arms like that.

“See, I’m also a leftover of a magic tool engineer. To see whether magic tools had intelligence, I tried many experiments, but ...my conclusion is that it’s impossible to follow-up with that answer with my current technological strength. Then I tried changing my way of thinking. Instead of a human-made artificial intelligence, it could be that those things have human souls dwelling in them, see?”

What! She derived that answer all by herself, this person. If it’s this woman, then she might realize my true identity too. While keeping these expectations to myself, let’s

concentrate on the conversation.

“To seal a soul, since a long time ago it’s been done with magic and Divine Blessings. Fundamentally, it’s a situation where you temporarily put a dead person’s soul in a body; like, controlling the dead by using controlling forbidden arts on the dead body in order temporarily put the soul in something or other. *N-*, *aa-*, sorry, I need some water ...”

She’s going to fill a cup from a cheap, rusty water vessel. Even if you don’t do that, I’ll treat you, *yo*. I wonder what I should choose; let’s go with the hot milk tea the same color as her hair. Since we’re in a basement it’s a little chilly, so I think something warm will be good.

“*N*, there was a noise. This, is this one of your products? Is it ok for me to take?”

“Welcome.”

“I see, ‘scuse me. Then I won’t hold back ... *n*, *kuhaaa*, my worn out brain loves that sugar. And this warmth is just perfect. You did good.”

O, with her expression loosening, her image completely changes. It’s like the innocent smile of a pure girl.

“It’s super comforting, thank you. Now then, it’s written that your name is Hakkon, but is that right?”

“Welcome.”

“Then, Hakkon. Could it be that you’re a human soul dwelling in this magic tool?”

So the day that question gets asked to me has come, then. Honestly speaking, even though I thought that I was lucky enough that Ramis, a person who could convey my thoughts, appeared in my situation of being unable to talk, even a person who has realized my situation has come.

“Welcome.”

With great feeling, I replied at a loud volume.

“It really is like that! I ain’t lost my hypothesizing abilities yet! *O-*, I see, I see. Nice to meet ya, Hakkon.”

“Thank you very much.”

I’m seriously happy. Though it’s a weird fate that the person who realized this is Ramis’ friend, it’s because all the people that girl’s close with are good people *na*. Even if I think it’s a coincidence, if it’s the result of that girl’s charm that pulls people to her, then this was most likely inevitable.

“Right now I’m gonna to start brainstorming conjectures from the information in the documents, so when I’m wrong, definitely say so. Hakkon is a magic tool with a master.”

“Too bad.”

There’s no owner for the vending machine. If you had to pick someone it’d be God, I guess.

“*O-*, there ain’t any. Then, do you have memories from when you was human?”

“Welcome.”

“So it’s like that. *Hee*, I see. Then, the most important question. Since you don’t have to restock your products at all, it’s not like you can run out of stuff inside of you. I think there’s most likely a storage vault in a different space where you, using space magic and abilities together, pull things out from there; how about it?”

In some ways she’s right, but it doesn’t feel like it’s the correct answer. I don’t have a clue about how I work myself.

“Welcome Too bad.”

“So that means I’m not completely wrong, huh? That said, the products need some amount of money to come out. If you don’t have a master, there’s no use for you, who’s just magic tool, to just collect and hoard money. If your goal was just to sell products, then it would be better if your prices were lower. Instead, you decided to set the prices kind of high anyway. That means, money does something super important for Hakkon.”

“Welcome Welcome.”

Hyurumi is amazing. Ramis has a great personality and the intuition to guess correctly, but this girl can come up with the right answer from barely any information.

“Looks like I hit the mark. I don’t know how it’s done, but with the money you get, you buy products; how’s that?”

“Welcome.”

“In other words, you need a lot of money to buy products.”

“Too bad.”

If I was just selling products then I can take the prices down to 1/10 of the original, but I need points for other functions and Divine Blessings, and life support too.

“So that’s wrong. Then, it’s not necessary to set it so high just to hoard money ... so that means there are other ways to use the money.”

“Welcome.”

It looks like it would be faster to show her. The easiest one to understand would be a form change; I change into that Candy Vending Mode’s frame.

“Oooo-, what the!? Light is ... oi, oi, you completely changed, *na*.”

After becoming the Cylindrical Candy Vending Mode, Hyurumi began to *tap tap* touch the body. If I had a sense of touch, this would have been awkward.

“This clear part is like glass, but it looks like that’s not it; I’m super curious, *ze*. Looks like here you put coins in to make what’s inside come out. Because you can see what kind of products there are, your willingness to buy is increased... super awesome!”

What precise comments. Completely different from how the other other-world people see me.

“-Oops, my bad. I got too excited and went off on a tangent. In other words, Hakkon has an ability where the money saves up can be used like this to change your body ... no, wait, some kind of function that can make these changes.”

“Welcome.”

Since she was able to fish out the right answer, I drop a candy. Go ahead and eat it later.

“O, I’ll take it gratefully.”

Making sure she had picked it up, I turned back into the usual vending machine. It’s not like I don’t like the Candy Vending Mode, but somehow I can’t settle down into it.

“Other than that, the things I want to know are ... other than changing your body and changing products, are there other things you can do, too?”

“Welcome.”

Since there’s the Divine Blessing’s <Barrier>, *na*. If it’s this girl who’s Ramis’ close friend, then it should be okay to show her.

“*Hee-*, so that means you still got secrets. It possible for you to show me those?”

“Welcome.”

“I’m so looking forward to this. Then, go ahead.”

I don’t mind, but you’re a bit close, *na*. If I use Barrier with her here, I’ll send her flying.

If she'd take a bit of distance, it'd be better. Step back~ step back~, for now I'll just try and see if I can transfer my thoughts.

"N? You not gonna show me? A, my bad, is it kind of dangerous? I'll step back a bit ... how about here?"

"Welcome."

This isn't in anyway my feelings being delivered, Hyurumi is just really good at guessing.

She's taken enough distance, so it should be fine. There's a small table nearby but there's nothing on it, so even if I send it flying there shouldn't be any problems.

Now then, <Barrier>.

Blue light sprang forth all around me. In the places about 1 meter away from me, a blue, translucent wall manifested, surrounding me.

"O-, what is this? The table near you was sent flying like it was being expelled. In other words, it's something like a barricade. Is it ok if I touch it?"

"Welcome."

It's basically just a terribly hard wall, so there aren't any problems just touching it.

Cautiously poking it with her finger, checking how it feels when hit with the palm of her hand, sending droplets of water flying at it from a finger dipped in the cup of water, she curiously investigated how the Barrier repelled things.

"It feels like a sturdy wall, *na*. Looks like there's also quite a bit of strength."

Watching her figure *smack smack* touching the wall, my mischievous side ignited. Just a bit; let's try and give her a scare.

Let's give Hyurumi permission to enter the Barrier.

"To what degree of shock can it withstand? To test it -- *fue? Kyaaa-!*"

Because she was in the middle of pushing with both hands, this girl's hands tore through the Barrier with quite a bit of force, running into my body. With the momentum, she ended up in the form of leaning against my body with hers.

If I was a flesh and blood human, then this would probably be something like a lucky event, but only a weirdo would make it his objective to see the form a young woman flying into the chest of vending machine.

"Wh, what is this? My body entered and went through the blue wall. There's no way this is because it was released; was it set so I have permission so only I can enter? A wall you can choose to set permissions on who can freely enter and exit. I think I've heard about this somewhere ... *a-*, where was it, I think it was the Empire's ... *O-*, I know! Barrier, it's Barrier! It's got to be an ability like one of the Divine Blessings!"

"Welcome."

But man, she's frighteningly knowledgeable, that Hyurumi. I completely understand the reason why Ramis was so eager to meet up with her.

"Hakkon's awesome. You can handle a wide variety of products, and have the possibility of changing your body and functions. And then, even being able to handle a Divine Blessing, it's like, you're transcending the level of a magic tool."

I'm happy to receive the praise, but this wasn't with my own strength at all. I just got the excellent body of a vending machine. What is truly praiseworthy is this girl's amount of knowledge. Because it's something that she got with her own strength. And then, I continued answering every and all questions until the dead of the night, when she was fully satisfied.

Her intellectual curiosity sated, the satisfied girl's hand gripped a nutrition drink. Because she looked like she would collapse from over-excitement, I added a product that would combat that.

To top it off, since it's a pretty expensive product the effect was immediate, and she became energetic as soon as she drank it. The effects of the expensive nutrition drinks seriously show up fast. Because the nutritional value is high, when I had a cold, this

really helped a lot.

Even so, when she was sleepy and hitting her limit, she sprawled out face up on a long table in a spot a little bit away from me, put a worn out rag over her head, and quickly fell asleep. She's kind of like a guy.

Exposing such a defenseless figure in the middle of a criminal gang of ruffians is dangerous. Is it heroic, or what should I say about it? I guess tonight I'll be the night watchman.

CHAPTER 23

THE WAY TO SATISFY DESIRE

I'm not mistaken in thinking of Hyurumi as an ally. Her life, at least until she solves my mystery, seems to be assured; looks like I won't have to worry about her being killed.

From what Ramis said, she's a person with wanderlust, so even if her whereabouts are unknown no one would be worried; the chances that no one's realized she's missing is high. It would be best not to put hopes on someone looking for her and coming.

That said, when they notice I'm not there, I can only pray that the Bear President sends out a search party. Ramis will be beside herself with worry; it's fine as long as she doesn't go overboard and do something rash.

For the community's reconstruction there's also Ramis, but I think I contributed quite a lot too. If I'm not there, the community will lose one of its connections and the reconstruction work will be delayed... this kind of convenient interpretation of the situation probably isn't the case.

While I'm thinking these things, in this room wrapped in the stillness of the night, **click**, a small sound echoed. As I focus my gaze in the direction of the sound, the doorknob turned and the door slowly opened. So they came after all.

"Oi, are we seriously gonna do this?"

"I bet it's been building up for you too, but if you don't like it, you can go back, *daze*."

"Th, that's not it, but you know, *naa*, that's got no waist and is all lanky, and dirty all over; and she's got no sexy parts at all."

"As long as she has a hole I don't care about all that."

"And what are we going to do about Boss' orders not to touch her?"

“No worries, just flash a knife and if you threaten her she won’t tell.”

They’re having a vulgar conversation in hushed voices. The number of guys is three, huh? The lower-grunt Gugoil isn’t participating. He had a terrible day; since the Boss threatened him, he’s probably ended up lying low.

I still have the option of making a ruckus by shouting “Welcome!” at my loudest sound setting, but since a basement with high sound-insulation is a standard in this kind of situation, honestly, I have doubts on its effectiveness. This place has the feeling of an improved prison.

And if I give them a scare, I’m worried that these guys will cause a mess and hurt Hyurumi in the chaos. There’s also the possibility of them going crazy and breaking me to death in order to keep me quiet.

If that’s the case, what should I do? Those guys are slowly approaching her, drawing close and appraising her; their gazes are creeping all over her entire body like they’re licking her all over.

I have no time to spare. I should try that.

“O,oi, hang on a sec. That magic-tool box is glowing, zo.”

Right before they touched her skin, one of the fellows smacked his comrade on the back with his eyes glued in my direction.

“E, wh,what the. The products are being swapped out ... no, his shape is changing too.”

“Th, this guy is, awesome! There’s a really detailed naked woman drawing-. Over here’s a really seductive, erotic underwear get up. This body is way beyond ero.”

The three together are plastered to me, their gazes fixed on the magazines across the glass – – the so-called porn-mags.

Recently they’ve declined since you can use the internet, the vending machines with porn-mags that is, but even now I know where they’re quietly residing.

Alright, and now’s the real deal. I send out 6 editions from my opening, dropping my

specially selected porn-mags.

“Oi, a product went and dropped zo-”

“For reals? Lemme take a look.”

“Me too me too-”

Kwahahaha, take that. Getting fired up when faced with Japan’s eros for the first isn’t uncommon at all. Especially with the ones a vending machine sells; since you can’t check the insides of that kind of book before you buy, the cover is major in how they lure in customers.

The pose and angle have all been calculated in. When other world people, with an undeveloped sexual culture, see this porn-mag, I wonder what will happen.

And then, selecting from among all the ones I’ve bought, I have full confidence that the contents of the books I handed over are magazines that will deliver. I also have a lot of the works that are the types with horrible content after being fooled-.

A, no. It’s because I’m a vending machine maniac, it’s not because I’m interested in this sort of thing; I really only bought them for part of my collection. By no means did I sneak out of the house in the middle of the night, checking that there was nobody around, just to buy them.

Recently, since there’s the internet, without any difficulty each person has the possibility of satisfying their sexual desires. I use it myself so I probably don’t have any right to nitpick, but just let me say it.

The worth of hard-earned eros is completely different from the things you can get with a single click!

For example, even if it’s that cheap thing where the contents are completely different from the cover, no matter how much your hopes were betrayed, that becomes something you’ll definitely reminisce over, because you live in the flesh!

... This too, previously, during the consultation with the sex-related business owner Shirley-san, was one of the ways I thought of as a disease counter-plan. *Maa*, in the

end, I didn't have this mode, though. I mean, it would have been something like having my own preferences spreading throughout the community, *na*.

"Uwa, how did they get such an accurate drawing? This is awesome, I can't take it."

"Wh, what's with these huge boobs. E, you can do that?"

"No way, no way, no way."

They're being pulled into it on the same level as middle-schoolers whose sex-drives have just awakened. They're absorbed in reading and have completely forgotten about Hyurumi's existence.

Up to here, it's gone just as planned. The problem is from here on.

"I, I'm not going to go through with the assault. I just remembered I have to do something."

"Wh, what a coincidence. My stomach hurts too, so I'm out."

"The, then, let's go back."

All of them are hunched forward for some reason and, both hands clutching one magazine each, they left the room like that. There was also the possibility of them getting excited and pouncing on Hyurumi, but in the end sexual curiosity won out.

Even at the risk of them assaulting her, satisfying their lust in this way was probably the better decision. The clothing designed to arouse that they had never seen before on the voluptuous women and the photos of them intertwined alone were enough to give them a shock, looks like.

I mean, the models for the magazines have strangely great bodies, and their faces are also beautiful. I shouldn't let the kill-joy opinion about how the latest image-processing technology is amazing out of my mouth.

Whichever way it ended up going, at least their ferocity would have been dulled.

If it went down the bad path, with her being assaulted, I was going to somehow manage with making a loud fuss and Barrier, but it went well so it's all good.

The door closed, and those guys' forms are gone. Hyurumi is, not even knowing she was going to be assaulted, still fast asleep. If those guys will calm down for a while with this, then it can end without meaningless conflict.

I can't run on my own power, and the things I can do are too few. No matter how I think about it, it's impossible for this girl to pick me up and carry me. If you're not Ramis it's not possible to lift me by yourself.

Now that she's not here, I understand how important she was to me. *-tte*, this totally sounds like I broke up with my lover.

In the end, the things I can do are buy time and hinder. I absolutely don't have enough points to get another Divine Blessing. That being said, the functions won't really be useful, but I'll go over them one more time.

Quite a bit of bit of time passed as I weighed the left over points, wondering what I should take, and Hyurumi woke up.

"FWAAAAAAaa. Haa, I slept so good. Yo, Hakkon."

While casually raking a hand through her disheveled hair, she faced me and raised a hand. When she awoke her clothes had gotten all disarranged, but forget about it being sexy, "sloppy" wins hands down.

She arched her back to stretch out her joints, but even though she thrust it out, there's no swelling at her chest. I don't think we'll get the punchline that she's actually a man. Though if we're just talking about how she talks and acts, she's totally a guy.

"Right, what's today? Though I want to investigate your functions more."

In the middle of her sentence her stomach made a large sound, and Hyurumi scratched her cheek with a finger.

"My bad. It's 'cause I didn't eat much, since I was watching out for weird things put in

my food, I'm super hungry."

That so. Then, I will treat you to a meal. She's been rubbing her arms and legs for a while, so they must have gotten quite cold. Then, it should be cup ramen is what I'd like to say, but if her stomach's that empty then let's first go with the oden that you can eat right away.

First I'll drop the oden can, and when she takes it, then I'll provide the cup ramen.

"This is warm, *na*. A completely sealed container, huh ... bend here and pull, *uooooo*-, I can't handle this. What a tasty smell."

With a *gobble gobble*, eating it all heartily, she finishes off the oden in an instant and drains the soup; now it looks like it's time for the cup ramen. She was a bit confused on how to use the hot water, but somehow or other she got the hot water poured in and sat cross-legged on top the table, humming while she waited.

Repeatedly opening the lid a few times, poking the noodles to check their state, and then closing it again, she looked just like a kid. She also devoured the cup ramen quickly and, since she looked like she still hadn't had enough, I gave her a new product, canned bread, to try out.

"This fluffy thing inside the can, it's ... bread-! So stuff like this exists too; you gonna totally bankrupt restaurants, *zo*. This is seriously good; ain't it just soft?"

I can't say her way of eating or her flattery is elegant, but just watching how she eats like it's so delicious will make me happy.

With her stomach satisfied, rubbing her swollen stomach, she relaxed while using the fork that came with the cup ramen in place of a toothpick.

Right then the door opened with a *klack*, and the grim face of the man they called Boss appeared.

"Looks like you're awake. Did you figure anything out about that box?"

"Aan-!? Why the fuck do I have to listen to YOUR orders-!?"

I wonder where Hyurumi, in this situation of being kidnapped, gets the nerve to jeer at a fierce-looking, large man. I don't see even a smidgen of fear. I wouldn't be surprised if her heart was made of steel.

"You've got guts. If you enter the group, we'll welcome you and treat you good."

"Sorry, but I ain't got no intentions of listening to villains or getting treated by them."

"Oi oi, you should act tough in moderation. You want to meet the same end as your friends?"

"Keh-, those guys ain't my friends. They only my hired escorts."

So she hired escorts. *Maa*, of course, huh? However you look at it, there's no way a girl who doesn't look like she's trained her muscles would be exploring, wandering alone on a level full of monsters.

"But you know, though they was just hired with cash, I ain't gonna forgive you shits who killed them-!"

"Ha-, and what can one powerless woman do? I'm not the patient type. So, yeah, in two days, fix this box, and get the gold coins out from it. Got it?"

The boss said only that, then walked away.

Hyurumi made a slashing motion with her thumb across her neck, sticking out her tongue.

A grace period of two days, huh? By then, will we make a plan to break out, or if nothing changes will she be killed, or will she meet something worse than death? I have to do something.

CHAPTER 24

WHEREABOUTS

While I'm still unable to think of a way to break the deadlock, two days have come and passed on into night. Those guys seem to think I'm broken, so they haven't come even once to buy my products.

Though, the three guys I passed the porn-mags onto, they've come just once more, acting shady and sneaking sidelong glances at me. Looks like that trio didn't spread the news about me transforming and giving them the magazines for free. Probably, if they told the other guys about it, then the news that they were going to assault Hyurumi would spread; of course they'd hate for it to reach the Boss' ears. Or they could be afraid that the magazines would be confiscated.

While conversing with me, Hyurumi conducted a very laid-back analysis. It's not because she wants to report to the Boss; she's doing it out of pure scientific curiosity.

For the time being, those guys deliver a morning and evening meal, but that girl threw everything into a barrel that was left in a corner of the room with a lid. All of her meals are provided for with things that I offer, so there's no need for her to eat that disgusting stuff.

By the way, today's dinner is two types of cup ramen and reformed potato chips. I thought about stocking new, novel products, but at this moment, Points are precious. To provide for the worst case scenario, even if it's just a little, I decide to reserve some.

"Kuwaaa. Thanks for tonight too. Maan, your food rocks. Even if I study it like crazy, I won't even be able to hold a candle to it."

Though it's not me that's amazing, it's the manufacturer's abilities.

With two days' time, thanks to feeding her meals to her stomach's content, her skin's become quite glossy. Vitality and meat seemed to return to her cheeks. With this, even though her figure had lost weight, you can see her attractiveness from before.

Her scruffy hair as well is slicked back with her fingers, taking on the appearance of picture-perfect hair. This is the result of my originally cold bottled water being warmed up, as well as me providing shampoo and toiletries that are provided by vending machines in hotels and bath houses. Of course I provided a towel too.

“Fu-u, that feels good.”

Completely not minding the me who’s a vending machine, with her top half bared, hair washed, and body wiped down, Hyurumi drained a bottle of coffee milk, fully satisfied.

The height of the bath is the coffee milk. I won’t back down on that at all. Looking back over the girl who had stripped off her black coat, her top half is regrettable, but her bottom half has all the allures of a woman. If we’re talking child-bearing hips ... she doesn’t have those, though.

If I were a regular guy then this would be an arousing scene, but since I’ve become a vending machine, that kind of urge has faded. It’s convenient that I don’t have any ways to divulge my emotions.

Hyurumi is acting like she has all the time in the world, but her time limit is the morning of tomorrow. Tonight is probably her last chance to run away. If I draw those guys’ attention, in that moment she could escape. That’s the best plan I could come up with, but I don’t have any techniques to communicate that.

What’s with this automatic communications disorder. If it’s going to be like this, then it might turn into a siege battle ... if she can somehow get me in front of the door, it will be a lot harder for them to open the door. For food, I can put it out; if we’re talking one week, we would be able to hold out well.

But if we do that, how she’ll get me in front of the door is going to be a problem; it’s big hindrance to my plane.

“Maa, what’s gonna happen’s gonna happen. Ain’t nothing for Hakkon to worry about! After I explain your worth to those guys, if we tell them it takes time for you to heal, they dumb, so we can trick them easily!”

After wiping her body completely dry, she took off the clothes she'd been wearing until now, and put on the underwear and over-sized man's T-shirt I provided.

Aa, underwear with a loose, flowing T-shirt up top. To think that the situation I'd dreamed of fulfillment for at least once in Japan would be experienced in another world. Something I could only see after reincarnation.

Of course the underwear and T-shirt were things I bought from a vending machine. A, I would like to point out that I accidentally bought the women's underwear. I'd REALLY like to point that out.

"It's kinda cold to wear just this, as expected."

Though she's refreshed, she's going to put on that black coat again, huh? I have experience purchasing underwear and shirts from vending machines, but unfortunately I haven't seen pajamas. I bet you could find them if you looked for them, but though I'm a vending machine maniac, I'm still lacking.

I haven't seen blankets or futons in vending machines, and even if there were, they'd be way too big for an impulse buy. That said, I can put out an over-sized bath towel. They're goods that are often found in bath houses and hotels.

"This is so white and clean, I don't really want to use it."

I'd like you to use it without holding back. Or else you'll catch a cold. I don't know what's going to happen from now on. You'll need to be in perfect shape to prepare if you don't want to give up until the end.

"Hakkon, you okay if we talk about something serious?"

"Welcome."

She came around to my front and spread the bath towel on the ground, and there she sat with her legs crossed. If she sits like that her underwear is in full view, but she didn't mind it at all. *Maa*, if the other party is a vending machine, it'd be a weird story to get embarrassed in front of it.

“Just in case, if you try to become a decoy to let me escape, it’s gonna be useless. Even if I get outside, we’re in a stretch of land with swarms of monsters; ya think me without any fighting abilities is gonna make it very far?”

She read me like a book, huh? Since, even though I’m only able to express my intentions with indicators for YES and NO, these past 2 days she’s talked to me a quite a bit. In the first place, she’s really smart, so reading me with my simple thought circuit is easy.

“Too bad.”

“Right? That’s why breaking out is a no go. We got no choice but to buy time and wait for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. From Hakkon’s side, I probably look like a super reckless chick. I ain’t got strength, just this trashy attitude, but I still live life on the edge. It ain’t like I’m not afraid of death. Nah, if anything, my feelings are just paralyzed about it ... Aa-, what am I talking about. Anyway, Imma sleep! Night!”

“Please come again.”

Right there she laid out and wrapped the bath towel over her head; in the blink of an eye she was asleep. That ability in sleeping can be called a special trait, my goodness.

We really did talk about something heavy. For her, there seems to be some circumstances she can’t tell people. I don’t have any means to try to ask and dig up anything and everything from her, and I don’t have any intentions on digging up the past she wants hidden anyway.

Anyway, it’s already late into the night. And those guys are probably keeping watch outside the door and throughout the repurposed fortress so I can’t do anything. Even if I could do something, exactly what could I do as a vending machine? I literally don’t have the hands for it.

What I can do for this girl is, in the case those idiots come a second time to assault her, I can protect her with Barrier, that’s it.

I get it, but I just can't calm down, so I survey the room; an old desk, chair, the documents, a magic tool light; there isn't anything like small hand tools. The ceiling height is about 3 meters thereabouts, and the walls, floor, and ceiling are all made of stone, so when you look at it, it appears solemn and sturdy.

When you talk about a "break out", tunneling under the walls is the standard, but exactly how many years would it take that possibility? In the end, no matter how much I looked around, I couldn't find any way to break the stalemate, so I was just about to give up and wait for tomorrow.

It was then that a faint sound flowed in, along with a faint shake to the vending machine body. E, what was that? It really is very faint, but didn't it sound like something just burst?

Thinking it couldn't be that, I primed my ears, and once again I heard something in the distance explode, along with the sounds of weapons clashing.

"Oi, what was that sound!?"

"It's from upstairs!"

The guards keeping watch raised panicked voices and their footsteps faded into the distance. Is this the fortress getting attacked!? If that's the case, I need to wake Hyurumi.

"Congratulations. You have won another bottle. Congratulations. You have won another bottle. Congratulations. You have won another bottle."

"*Fuei?* E, what, what, e, o, wh, what's going on, Hakkon."

Wiping away her drool with one hand, she stared at me with a blank expression. I can't really explain, but anyway, here's a canned coffee to wake you up.

"O-, thanks. *Kuhaaaa*, one of these right when you wake up hits the spot-!"

As always, she acts like an old man, but right now, who cares? The current situation is, no matter how I think about it, a raid. The problem is, who are those guys fighting?

There are about two possibilities on who's raiding. The monsters on this level. Or just maybe – the Hunters.

With the community becoming lively, these villain-like guys might have sniffed out the money and come flooding in too. Stealing me is probably not their first offense; it's likely that their crimes have been piling up. These guys might be marked.

Even if that's the case, this timing is way too good to be a coincidence. That means ...

A-, could it be that they were waiting for me to get stolen?

Me, who is a lucrative lump of iron sitting there, aren't I the best target? I can't move on my own, and I can't resist, I'm just a big piggy bank left on the side of the road. So yeah, I'm basically a big target for criminals to aim at.

And then, stealing me would be a pretty big-scale job. I'm a heavy thing with the proportions to match, so it will take some time and effort to carry me off. There isn't anyone else who would be more suitable for bait.

E, could it be that I've hit upon the tactics that the Bear President was thinking about using?

But, if it was the Bear President, then he would have told me before hand. No, could it be that when he was going to tell me, they attacked so he took advantage of it? Whichever, with their predictions coming true, they saved us!

"This sounds like ... who they fighting?"

Now that Hyurumi's finally wide awake, her always sharp eyes didn't move from the door and she strained her ears while she stood.

"Yeah, they definitely fighting someone. I dunno who it is, but this might be our chance."

She has the same opinion as me. Right now our biggest worry is the template where both parties get annihilated. If that happens, then we'll end up remaining trapped in this room.

She's been struggling to open the door since a while ago, but since it's locked with a

key from the outside, it looks like no matter what she does, it's useless-ish.

“Kooooooooon”

E, that voice right then. It just needs a “Ha-” and it's a voice I've heard before. Hyurumi also seems to think so; she knit her brows together and clung to the door.

“Haaa-kkooooon! Wheeeeeere are yoooooooouuu!”

I know that voice all too well; that loud voice you can hear from the other side of the massive door is —

“Ramis!?”

That's right, it's Ramis' voice!

There's no way I'd mishear that voice. In other words, that means the ones who are attacking are the Hunters. We're saved!

“A, e, why's that chick here? The Hunter Association send her? And she's calling Hakkon's name. You mean, you know each other?”

“Welcome.”

“Ooooo-, that so! Then, I'd just get in the way and drag them down, so let's stay put. It'd be way uncool to get taken as a hostage.”

Deciding that the safest place would be next to me, she put her clothes back on and entrusted her back to me.

“If it gets dicey, protect me, *na!*”

“Welcome”

Leave it to me. If it's just protection, I have confidence in it.

I can hear the clashing of weapons as well as harsh words. The ground tremors you'd

feel from time to time are most likely originating from Ramis. If she's removed her limiters and is wielding her Super-Strength at full force, the pillars and walls of the decaying, on the verge of collapse fortress might as well be made of styrofoam against her.

"This, could be bad."

All of a sudden, Hyurumi's voice leaked out as she stared at the ceiling. From that, I looked at the ceiling too, but I don't see anything particularly off about it. A bit of dust is falling from it, but I don't think it's at the point of collapsing.

"Above us is a storage room; the coins those shits have been hoarding be stashed there. If it was just that, we'd be fine, but those morons put defective Magic Stones ... aka Explosive Stones, all up in there. Originally Magic Stones be stones used as fuel for magic tools, but sometimes you get weird Magic Stones with internal magic power flowin' through, and you can't use them as fuel. If you're shit with them and do it anyway, you'll just bust your magic tool."

So there are Magic Stones too. I was wondering how magic tools work, but I see, it was that sort of thing.

"And so, Magic Stones with defects is hard to handle; when a country tried to stash them up to be used as weapons, there be stories about how it blew to high heaven and took the surrounding land with it. That's why it be common sense nowadays to get rid of them as soon as you find them ... but those guys, fully knowing it, sold off the Explosive Stones as if they was Magic Stones to merchants many times, and have been stocking them up in the storage room above like crazy. They gotta be messed up in the head."

If this was someone else's problem, it'd be a story where you'd go, "Man, they're dumb" and continue on, but in other words, above our heads is an explosion just waiting to happen ... are they idiots!?

"So, yeah, you get that it'll be real bad if the Explosive Stones get a strong shock. You'd be right in thinking even the roof up there would collapse."

Aa, yeah. I don't need any further explanation. Ramis-san, could you hold your strength back a little-!

Somehow, the oscillations and crashing are gradually getting closer, though-!

"A, that's bad, for reals."

In the moment that Hyurumi muttered that, the ceiling came tumbling down with a loud roar.

CHAPTER 25

AS A VENDING MACHINE MANIAC

I'd have gone deaf temporarily if I had eardrums, that's how loud the explosion that filled the underground room was; looking up at the ceiling, a creaking fissure has begun to run freely.

A, it's done for!

"I, it's caving in-! Kyaaaaaa-!"

This is not the time to think how cute she is when she screams; go, <Barrier>!

Barely in time, the blue wall surrounded us; the collapsed ceiling that had entered the inner part of the Barrier was rejected and flicked outwards. *Mou*, being wrapped up in that noise, you can't discern any other sounds; Hyurumi is squatting with her hands over her ears.

When the sound finally stopped, we are now trapped in the rubble. Originally we'd probably be in a darkness that light couldn't pass through, but the body of a vending machine is brimming with light, so you can see the surroundings well.

"Y, you saved my ass, Hakkon. Ain't you a capable man, ya bastard."

She lightly thumped my iron body with a fist. It's not exactly a safe situation, but for now we can make do. But you know, the problem is going to be from here on out.

We'll make do with food somehow. The biggest problem is maintaining the Barrier. Maintaining the Barrier at ten thousand points, with 1 point reduction every second, is my limit. One hour reduces my points by 3600, so if we aren't dug out in three hours, we won't be able to do anything than get crushed and die.

If it was just me ... if I raise my Defense I can probably withstand it. But, I don't have even the slightest intentions of choosing that. If I abandon her, I'll regret it for the rest of my life. Even though I'm no longer human, I'd like my heart at least to stay human.

And I don't want to see Ramis' crying face at all.

"Hakkon, can you keep this Barrier up forever?"

"Too bad."

Spewing out lies won't help any. I should convey the scope of what I can do in this situation, and find a way to save the both of us.

"Do you not have even an hour's worth?"

"Too bad."

"Is two hours your limit?"

"Too bad."

"You have about three hours worth?"

"Welcome"

"I see, we got three hours about ... just about no room for error, it sucks."

That's right, we have no time. We absolutely have to break out of our current situation before time runs out. Vending Machine products that we can use as tools to help us escape -- don't exist.

It's heartless, but this is reality. I have an overwhelming lack of Points if I want to choose a Divine Blessing. If my functions had a drill option, then we'd be talking, but of course that sort of thing doesn't exist. Even if it exists, I bet it would need an exorbitant amount of points.

No matter what I think of, I get checkmate-d, but I won't give up yet. There still has to be some combination of things ...

"Oi, Hakkon. To maintain the Divine Blessing, could it be you need money? Y'know, back when we was talking about how you can use money for other things."

"Welcome."

Aa, we did talk about that. Naturally, if we could gather a large amount of coins then

we can make do, changing them to points to maintain the Barrier, but Hyurumi's coins and luggage, all of it, were taken away. The kind of money we're talking about doesn't exist anywhere here.

"Like I thought. Then we'll manage somehow. Hakkon, look up."

Somehow?

I can't just obediently take her word for it, but I shift my vision above to the debris-filled area where the ceiling originally was. And what do you want me to — E, that is.

"See it? That's a bag stuffed with coins. Remember, I told you, above us is a storage room."

A, aa, that's right. The entire reason for this great catastrophe was because the storage room was right over head. With the floor missing, it's obvious what's in the storage room will fall down.

Then, let's change the permissions so only that bag can enter the Barrier!

When it fell to the ground, from the mouth of the bag, which seemed like a child could be in it, gold, silver, and copper coins all mixed together spilled out. Alriiiiiight, just with this, we have more than enough to keep the Barrier going. Just the coins that spilled out have the power to keep it going for a full day.

Now I just need to change the prices for the products; let's change them to one gold coin and above.

"Alright, I'm going to buy whatever I want!"

Gold coins, silver coins, all coins were inserted in large quantities, and the Points went up like you wouldn't believe. This is probably money those guys got their hands on through criminal acts, but I can't return it to the victims so I'll use it well.

If those guys' head guy knew how all of his stashed money was disappearing, I bet he'd go crazy.

We don't have to worry about the Barrier anymore. If we can hold out for three days, then Ramis will probably run into us, digging out the rubble. And in addition, if I let my voice out, I believe that she'll realize it if she's close.

My life's crisis is fading; I'm no longer super tense.

Now all we have left to do is wait for help. Hyurumi is also completely at ease, chewing on over one gold coin, expensively priced molded potato chips. Though with her stomach full, she's gotten sleepy so it's quiet.

"Haa- haa- haahaa, what the ... breathing, hurts."

E-, isn't her face color bad? Her breathing's also rough, and she looks like she's in pain with her hand on her forehead. What on earth could have happened, she was that energetic just a minute ago ... Aa-, I'm an idiot!

Just because my own body's mechanical, I committed a huge blunder. Right now, that girl is suffocating. Unlike me, people need to breathe. In a space buried airtight with no cracks in it, humans can't survive very long.

Dammit, if I had just thought a little I should have realized it. Just because I won't die I got careless, and now she's being exposed to danger right before my eyes.

"My head hurts, haa haa haa"

What should I do? The excess time we just had doesn't exist. If Hyurumi passes out from lack of air, I won't be able to do anything. Once she runs out of oxygen, then ... oxygen ... that's it!

I know I have it, that function. I thought I wouldn't ever have to take it, but right now, I have never been happier to be a vending machine maniac.

I changed into a vending machine with a retro feeling to it. It's a form change with an oblong shape that you can't really say was good design sense; on the top, words in kanji appeared.

『酸素自動販売機』

(Oxygen Vending Machine)

From my middle was a mask that can completely cover the nose and mouth, connected to the main body with a thin tube; from that it's possible to supply oxygen.

"Haa haa, wh,what's this for?"

Originally it was a system where 50 yen supplied 3000 cc's of oxygen, but of course this time there's no charge. Even if she doesn't notice it, it'll be fine because I'll just keep putting out oxygen. Since it will be fine if I can supply the entire space with oxygen.

"Haa haa, here, haa haa haa ... something's coming out ... should I, haa haa, breathe it in?"

"Welcome"

She equipped the mask firmly to her mouth. She sucked in the oxygen greedily, and her pained face gradually became calm; looks like she'll be fine.

Haaaaaa, I panicked. In vending machine exhibits and museums, I've seen them and debated it before plunging in; becoming a part of the vending machine maniac community paid off.

This oxygen vending machine was a vending machine that actually came out around Showa 40 (1965). At that time in Japan, air pollution was a big problem, so it seems like one of the links to the plan to counter-act that was to install one of these on the Ginza.

What I know about has its limits, but this is a gem that definitely enters my top strange vending machines.

I have an abundance of points, so I can keep up both Barrier and the oxygen together; there's no problem. Now we just leisurely wait for her to get saved. Of course, this time I'm going to check that I didn't overlook something, though.

I can provide a meal at any time; there's a mound of products littering the floor, so there shouldn't be a problem for a time. I even have more than enough Points for a while. In case anything unexpected happens, I'll remain on guard and vigilant for a

while. Like this, it'll be perfect. There's nothing I overlooked, I think.

What we've dealt with has been awful, and I'm sorry that there was nothing I could do, but even when I make a mistake, I can follow it up, so we'll manage somehow. Until we're saved, I swear that I won't be careless.

"Thanks, Hakkon. Ya know, if you were human, you'd be pretty sick."

With her sitting there, embarrassed with upturned eyes, even though I'm a vending machine, my chest — equipment started beating fast. But you know, even with this law of nature, I'm entrusting myself to Ramis.

Even now, though I'm not squished and broken, I wonder if she'll cry. She should know about my Barrier and sturdiness, so she should know I'm okay, so she probably won't overdo it.

Interrupting my one-sided thoughts, a weird sound echoed from over head. *Scrape scrape*, like something was being shaved off, a low bass rumble mixed with an angry sound like something heavy being dropped on the ground.

Even that sound is soon cut off – – by a certain girl's scream.

"Hakkon! Where, where are you-! Even if it's not safe, reply!"

That tormented voice is ... crying, huh? For goodness sake, crying for a vending machine, even a maniac like me will go pale.

"Fuhahahahaha. Ramis be calling you, Hakkon. Do a reply."

Hyurumi stood up and *bang bang* smacked my back.

The rubble overhead was blown away, a magic light shone in, and Ramis peered in at us. Her face was wet with snot and tears, and she had cried her eyes out, so the area surrounding her eyes were swollen and red. I understood exactly how worried she was about me in a single glance.

"Hakkoouooooooooon-!"



Without any hesitation, she dove down towards me from above. I changed the permission of the Barrier to let Ramis in, and Ramis slipped through and crashed into me.

《25 damage. Endurance has been reduced by 25.》

Guwa-, ku, I took more damage than I thought. But, read the atmosphere, damage read out.

“I’m sorry, I’m sorry, *ne*. It’s because I took my eyes off you this happened.”

There’s no need to blame yourself like that. Aside from that, I’m really happy about the hug, but my body is starting to give off a bad kind of jarring sound-.


《10 damage. Endurance has been reduced by 10》

... Let’s do an Endurance recovery. If I leave it, I’ll likely lose my life after being saved. Calm down, Ramis.

“Thank you”

“I’m sorry, I’m sorry, I’m so happy you’re saaaaaafe.”

I don’t have any arms to hug the crying girl, nor do I have the mouth to convey words of comfort, but I have the heart that is glad that I’ve met you. That I could meet you again, I’m really happy, Ramis.



輸給A書的
休爾米大姊頭
實在太可愛了。

夢野 月夜

スオリ

め



ネコっぽい感じ

◆SPさん



ぐぬぬ...



うまー

シヤールィ

め



美まげ



せなか 開ける



ミースル

スリだけ
ミースル 気味。

クマかいちよー



口元
少し老ける感。



◆ 鼻掛けメガネ
うっすら
サングラス風味



フード付コートだけど
普段は帽子。

タバコ 吸わせても
いいかも

ヒュールミ

◆め

◆インナー

◆黒衣 on



三白眼モドキ

◆バンダナ



この蛇は倒
空き



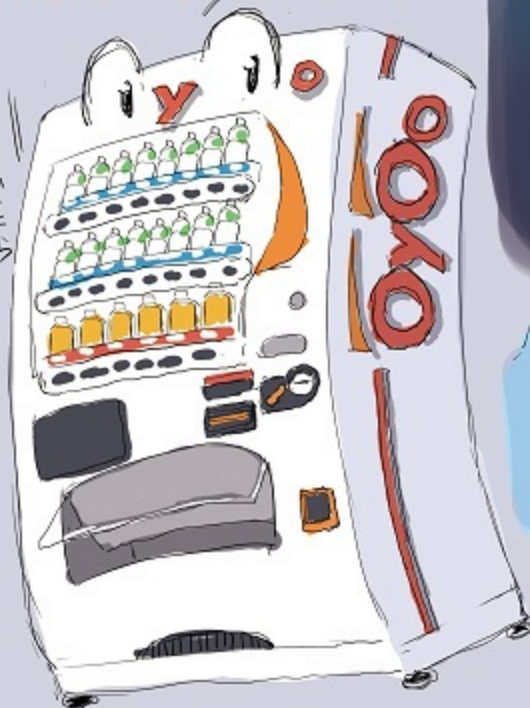
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◆びあす



ハッコン

またリカでたら
もう1本！



ファミリス





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